



May 19, 2020

Statement Regarding Layoffs at Ohio University

The American Political Science Association expresses our support for faculty and staff impacted by layoffs at Ohio University. The financial pressures facing institutions of higher education grow by the day and the global pandemic has accelerated existing challenges facing both public and private institutions. As administrators make difficult decisions facing an uncertain future they must ensure that faculty and staff have a meaningful role in shaping institutional priorities and budgets. We urge colleges and universities to make every effort to preserve the programs and positions that directly serve the institution's academic mission as they plan for Fall 2020 and beyond.

Political science and the social sciences play an important complementary role to the natural sciences' research on the virus itself. COVID-19 is disrupting a world shaped by governments, institutions, cultures, and beliefs. Understanding how the power structures succeed and fail to protect human lives, rights, and freedoms is critical. In America, we know that the economic hardships, diseases, and deaths the crisis has brought have disproportionately affected the poor, the elderly, and particularly people of color. As colleges and universities consider cuts to their academic programs, we urge them to protect sciences that help us understand the current moment and inform the path forward for governments, communities, and households.

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Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 13,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.