

Friday, June 2, 2017

To the WSU Board of Trustees, Interim President Curtis McCray, and incoming President Cheryl Schrader:

We, the undersigned faculty, are writing to express our objection to the proposed FY18 budget announced on May 19. It calls for a \$1.6 million increase in budgeted spending for intercollegiate athletics but cuts to every other major spending unit, including \$9.5 million in cuts to the seven core colleges and \$1 million in cuts to the library (not to mention \$3.9 million additional cuts to BSoM and SoPP).

Indeed, when the Board of Trustees hired Dr. McCray as interim President, “maintaining [WSU’s] core athletics programs at a NCAA Division I level” appeared in the *first sentence* of the *first item* in the list of his duties specified in his contract.

Putting athletics on a par with academics and thus before the needs of our students is disgraceful and a gross strategic blunder! It continues the misplaced priorities that have characterized WSU spending in recent years and, along with gross mismanagement, led to the present fiscal crisis. Under normal circumstances, it would be rational to give intercollegiate athletics a realistic budget, in line with the overspending that annually has occurred. But, in this fiscal crisis, it is inexplicable—even absurd. Spending on intercollegiate athletics has typically totaled about \$10 million per year; in contrast, ticket sales have generated about \$300 thousand per year. Even if one includes donations and other sources, the revenue generated by athletics has been about \$2 million per year—most of which is offset by the subsidies that the university must provide to the Nutter Center because athletic events generate such little revenue.

There is no evidence that intercollegiate athletics is of much interest to most of our students. After all, through their fees, they pay for two “free” tickets to each basketball game, but student attendance is chronically and woefully low. Likewise, all the empty seats at athletic events and the minuscule revenue generated by athletics demonstrate that there is little community support for our teams either.

Students come to Wright State looking for a quality education at an affordable price so that they can have rewarding careers rather than McJobs. Taxpayers expect and need the research of our faculty and students to benefit our communities and foster economic development. None of these objectives are advanced by increasing spending on intercollegiate athletics.

In closing, then, we call upon you to totally eliminate the increase budgeted for intercollegiate athletics. Instead, we propose that this \$1.6 million be devoted to scholarships. That change in the proposed budget would help to stabilize enrollments and to restore our badly tarnished reputation in the community.

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Amelia Hubbard
Amir Zadeh
Amit Sharma
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Andrea Harris
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Angie Clayton
Ann Farrell
Ann Stalter
Annette Canfield
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Anthony Evans
Arnab Shaw
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Audrey McGowin
Awad Halabi
Barbara Fowler
Barbara Hopkins
Barbara Hull
Barbara Kraszpulska
Basil Naah
Betsy Witt
Bin Wang
Brady Allen
Brandy Foster
Brenda Young
Bruce Cromer
Bruce Laforse
Byron Crews
Carl Sabo
Carlos Costa
Carol Herringer
Carol Mejia-Laperle
Carol Morgan
Caroline Cao
Caroline Hillard
Carolyn Stoermer
Catherine Crowley

Chad Campbell
Charis Elliott
Charles Gulas
Chinonye Chukwu
Chris Barton
Christine Sitko
Christine Wilson
Christopher Beck
Christopher Deweese
Christopher Oldstone-Moore
Chuck Ciampaglio
Cynthia Marshall
D Miyasaki
Damaris Serrano
Dan Halm
Daniel Slilaty
Daniel Zehringer
Danielle Rante
Dave Benson
Dave Hochstein
David Bukovinsky
David Castellano
David Hall
Deborah Crusan
Dennis Loranger
Detrice Barry
Dorothy Alvarez
Doug Keown
Doyle Watts
Drew Swanson
Elliot Gaines
Eric Rowley
Erik Banks
Erik Potts
Frank Eguaroje
Franklin Cox
Geoffrey Owens
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Gina Oswald
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Gretchen Mcnamara
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James Menart
James Schwartz
James Tipps
Jeannette Marchand
Jennifer Kaminski
Jerry Clark
Jerry Nelms
Jessica Barnett
Jill Lindsey
Jim Adamitis
John Conteh
John Dickinson
John Gallagher
John Haught
John Kurokawa
John Martin
Jonas Thoms
Jonathan Varhola
Joseph Cavanaugh
Josh Ash
Josh Francis
Joshua Stomel
Judson Murray
Judy Jagger-Mescher
Judy Ribak
Karen Lahm
Karen Meyer
Kathryn Meyer
Katie Hossler
Kefu Xue
Keke Chen
Kelly Battles
Kevin Duffy
Kim Vito
Kimberly Warrick
Kristine Scordo
Kuppuswamy Arumugam

Kwang-Jin Cho
Labib Rouhana
Lafleur Small
Lance Greene
Larry Weinstein
Lary Sanders
Laurel Monnig
Len Kenyon
Leslie Neyland
Liam Anderson
Linda Farmer
Lindsey Martin
Lisa Kenyon
Lynne Kelley
Maher Amer
Marian Kazimierczuk
Marie Thompson
Marjorie Hess
Marjorie Mclellan
Mark Verman
Marlene Stuber
Marlese Durr
Martha Antolik
Mary Coyle
Matthew Benjamin
Megan Faragher
Megan Rua
Mei Tian
Meilin Liu
Melissa Spirek
Michelle Cipriano
Michelle Metzner
Michelle Reed
Michelle Smith
Mindy Fulks
Mindy Mcnutt
Misty Richmond
Nancy Garner
Nathan Bowling
Nicole Richter
Noeleen Mcilvenna
Oliver Stoutner
Pam Knauertlavarnwa
Pamela Tsang
Pascal Hitzler
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Peggy Kelly
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Qingbo Huang
Quan Zhong
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Robert Rubin
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Rory Roberts
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Sarah Mcginley
Sarah Tebbens
Scott Bruce
Scott Geisel
Scott Watamaniuk
Sean Pollock
Seitz David
Sharon Heilmann
Sharon Jones
Shelley Jagow
Sheng Li
Shengrong Cai
Sheri Stover
Sherri Sutter
Shreya Bhandari
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Sirisha Naidu
Stacey Hundley
Stefan Chinov
Stephanie Davis
Stephanie Dickey
Stephanie Triplett
Steven Higgins
Stuart Mcdowell
Subhashini Ganapathy
Susan Carrafiello
Suzanne Franco
Tanvi Banerjee
Tara Hill
Tarun Goswami

Teresa McWilliams
Theresa Myadze
Thomas Lukowicz
Thomas Rooney
Thomas Wischgoll
Tk Prasad
Tracy Brewer
Tracy Longley-Cook
Travis Clark
Tyler Green
Valerie Stoker
Vance Saunders
Vance Saunders
Vaughn Shannon
Vikram Sethi
Volker Bahn
Weiwen Long
Weizhen Wang
William Romine
William Slattery
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