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Temple Management Should Make Finances Open & Transparent

Temple management continually bangs the drum of bad financial news and cutbacks at other universities rather than speak specifically and openly about its own financial situation. When they do speak about their finances, they seem to put the worst possible face on things, such as lamenting the federal stimulus fund's restoration of cuts in state appropriations as a "one-time, stop-gap measure" instead of celebrating.

It's time for the University to respond to TAUP's calls for it to reveal the actual up-to-date state of Temple's finances and their detailed projections for the future. This week's *Temple News* has an ad exposing Temple's financial shell game. You can find it at

<http://www.taup.org> or download it directly at

<http://www.taup.org/TAUPWEB2009/TAUPAdShellGame20090317.pdf>

First: what are the actual revenues to date? We know, of course, that investment income is down and that Governor Rendell made cuts in state appropriations this year of \$10.5 million. (By the way, this figure comes directly from the Governor's website. Temple management claims that the state cuts total \$11.4 million, yet they have not explained where the additional \$900 thousand was cut.)

Tuition revenue, Temple's main funding for education, has been increasing for years - by 125% from 1998 to 2008. Is tuition revenue this year greater or lower than expected? What about revenues from grants and contracts? There is every indication in the news, and even in the *Temple Times*, that enrollments (hence, tuition revenue) are strong and will remain so in the future. What's the full picture?

Second: what is the current picture on expenditures? We know that there is a hiring freeze and a travel freeze - though both are flexible when it comes to faculty. President Ann Weaver Hart has called for a \$40 million cut in operating expenses for next year. Three-quarters of that cut is expected to come from the Provost's portfolio, but the administration has not explained why.

Meanwhile, management continues to pay for outside consultants and lawyers. For instance, in addition to using in-house negotiators, they are spending a great deal (how much? - Temple won't say) on the services of a Ballard Spahr attorney to lead the team.

There does seem to be one place where Temple management feels they can save money. In contract negotiations management continues to propose a total freeze on wages for next year and vanishingly small pay increases thereafter.

TAUP is bringing these questions to the attention of students, parents and the wider public. The education of our students and the livelihoods of our faculty, librarians and academic professionals are at stake.

Temple can do better