

Is this what you expect from Temple?



Financial tricks and a lack of transparency, fewer dollars for instruction.

Now you see it; now you don't.

As a public university, Temple should provide full disclosure of its spending and revenue streams. Instead, its administrators are engaged in a sleight of hand — hiding parts of its budget that are public information in most other public universities.

Hidden from scrutiny are the millions of dollars expended for consultants' and lawyers' fees. While Temple administrators pile up secretive payments to outsiders, including hundreds of thousands of dollars to Ballard Spahr, a corporate law firm specializing in "union avoidance," administrators are unwilling to give faculty, librarians, and academic professionals fair raises. Over the past ten years Temple's revenues have more than doubled, but expenditures on instruction have not kept pace — the percentage of dollars devoted to instruction dropped from 65 to 56 percent. That is a troubling trend given Temple's faculty performs the core mission of the university — educating students.

Temple's faculty well understands that these are difficult economic times. But Temple University can afford to provide its professors with modest increases in salary. Temple has not suffered the loss in endowment funds that have hurt many other schools. Temple's main source of revenue comes from tuition and state funds. Since Temple is a reasonably priced public institution and uncertain economic times tend to bolster enrollment numbers, the university is less likely to feel the economic pinch than its pricier counterparts.

Let's put an end to Temple's shell game. It's time to open up Temple's books and honestly discuss the university's economic health and how Temple administrators and faculty can work together to lessen the burden on students and teachers alike. Temple educators seek fairness: cost of living increases; merit raises; and the respect and support to grow as educational professionals. The faculty and staff at Temple University take their jobs and mission seriously — to them this is not a game.

Temple can do better.

A message from TAUP, The Temple Association of University Professionals.

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