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## **Fight the Proposed Cuts Stand With Temple and Work Together**

The budget that Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett announced on March 8 would gut Temple's state funding by taking back over 50% of its appropriation compared to last year's figure. The proposal would reduce funding by almost \$104 million. As far as we know, the overall cut proposed for higher education in the state is the largest one-year percentage reduction in US history.

### **What You Can Do**

TAUP stands with the entire Temple community in opposition to these cuts. We urge you to do all you can to help.

First, the administration has initiated a petition drive. TAUP asks all employees to [sign the petition](#) to let the Governor know the opposition he faces to his assault on affordable university education for his constituents.

Second, visit the Temple Advocates Legislative Outreach Network (TALON) and [sign up to contact your local state legislators](#), and add your experience to the pre-written template letters.

Third, encourage students, family, friends and neighbors to do the same.

There is much more each of us can do to counteract Corbett's cuts:

- Speak face-to-face with your state representative and senator. Contact them at their local district office and go to see them. Personally tell them the damage the budget cuts will cause to high-quality, affordable education in Pennsylvania. Temple, as well as the other state-supported universities, will almost certainly have to raise tuition significantly. This threatens the ability of families in the state to pay for college for their children. The TAUP office will soon send you name and contact information for your reps so you can make appointments to see them.
- Explain Temple's budget situation to your students. Lay out the facts in terms most important to them: Tuition increases; cut-backs in programs and financial aid; worsening student/faculty ratios.

- Have your students talk to their parents about these consequences. Urge your students themselves to go to their state senators and representatives for a direct conversation, and to ask their parents to do the same.
- Faculty, students, and parents should all write to their local papers expressing opposition to the budget cuts. Television station web sites provide the opportunity for emails direct to their management. Craft op-ed pieces for the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News. Tell how these cuts will hurt our students and hurt education and research.

We can win the fight to save funding for state higher education. Constantly, concertedly, repeatedly tell the governor and the legislature what they need to hear: Find other, more equitable, ways to balance the budget that don't require the citizens of Pennsylvania to sacrifice the opportunity for success that a college education provides.

### **Let's Work Together**

In response to the threat facing the entire Temple community, on Wednesday, March 16, at the Representative Faculty Senate meeting TAUP President Art Hochner moved that the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate Budget Review Committee and TAUP work with the administration to create a representative task force to deal with the budget crisis forced by the proposed cuts. The resolution passed the senate unanimously. We look forward to working with the administration on how to deal with Temple's budget.

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