

November 17, 2021

Dear Dr. Elsener and Dr. Silva,

We, the undersigned faculty of the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts, are troubled by the proposal from the Marian University administration to eliminate the political science program. We urge the administration to respect principles of faculty governance, especially in educational and curricular matters, and thus follow the AAUP guidelines for program closure. Those guidelines promote close consultation with and respect for duly constituted faculty governance bodies and emphasize educational considerations.

Moreover, as faculty in a School of Liberal Arts, we are concerned by the elimination of a liberal arts discipline like political science that contributes to the comprehensive, rich education of undergraduates in a democratic society. Students who have graduated from Marian with a degree in political science have written about the value of their degree in their careers and public lives. Students who take political science courses gain a fuller understanding of how our democracy works; you have no doubt read calls from organizations and public leaders for a greater emphasis on civic education. We express our strong support for the arts and sciences faculty at Marian University, and in particular for the faculty and students in the political science program there.

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