

3 August 2020

Dear Kathy and Peter,

Thank you for taking the time on July 24 to meet with us. It was helpful to hear more about your immediate and long-term budgetary concerns.

As we, the 66 members of the Whitman College chapter of the AAUP, continue to educate ourselves about how Whitman manages its resources, we have some requests for you. Our general hopes are (1) to promote transparency, (2) to develop our understanding of the important decisions that need to be made in the coming year, and (3) to request that you consult with the faculty leadership regarding all decisions, including salary cuts and involuntary furloughs, that impact the educational mission of the College. We aim to be allies in working for the College's long-term sustainability. To that end, here are our requests:

1. In order to better understand the anticipated budgetary deficit for the 2020-21 fiscal year, as well as the amounts recouped by past and future program and staffing cuts, we request full access to the financial model the College is now employing for this purpose, as well as related materials circulated to the Board's finance committee.
2. We request that the administration consult with all elected Division Chairs as well as Chair of the Faculty during budgetary decision making that is related to the academic program.
3. We would like to know the timing and process for converting the calculated endowment payout to cash, recognizing that decisions related to the payout must be carefully planned far in advance.

We realize that these are big requests, yet we think that providing this information to the Whitman faculty will accomplish several good things. It will increase the level of transparency and buy-in around decisions that will affect all of us far into the future. It will strengthen faculty members' understanding of the complexity of the issues and the difficult tradeoffs faced by financial decision makers. It acknowledges the faculty's role in decisions that impact the educational mission of the college. And these benefits, in turn, will help make the faculty better allies in the task of "steering the ship" during these challenging times and in the College's future.

Sincerely,

Arielle Cooley, WCAAUP Vice President

Pavel Blagov, WCAAUP Secretary

on behalf of the Whitman College chapter of the American Association of University Professors