

University Administration Violates the Faculty Union Contract

Dear Students,

With sadness we inform you that the Point Park University administration has decided, in violation of faculty rights and the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to lay off an important number of your professors. At the end of last week, we were notified that non-tenured faculty will be cut to reduce the costs associated with the COVID- 19 pandemic. Yet, the administration has given no indication of what its bigger plan is to meet the university's academic mission moving forward. Plus, the administration has raised your tuition while continuing to invest in very costly administrative positions.

As students, you are part of the *common project* this university represents. Therefore, you should be aware that if the administration's decision remains definitive, you will lose committed teachers, courses, curriculum development, and possibly even programs on which you were counting, and your own education depends. Losing such quality faculty members limits the range of academic expertise available at Point Park University – an expertise that was solicited and vetted by the senior faculty, based on what they identified as areas of growth for the university.

We believe that education is neither a product quantifiable in money nor marketable short-term. It is a fragile and intangible product, in fact, a long-term project that requires continued professional and emotional dedication on the part of both educators and administration. Decisions about the future of the university need to be considered carefully and not in the haste of the moment, through a simple scribble of the pen.

The concerned faculty