

Faculty Senate Passes Resolution about Stadium Plans

On Thursday, Feb. 21, 2018 the Temple University Faculty Senate passed the following resolution with one dissenting vote.

A Resolution on the Decision to Seek Planning Commission Approval for an On-Campus Football Stadium/Multi-Purpose Facility

WHEREAS, as a publicly funded university, Temple's commitment must be to the education and wellbeing of its students as well as its own long-term financial stability,

And whereas the proposed football stadium places all of these values in jeopardy,

Whereas the decision to proceed with the stadium illustrates Temple's disregard for the many unmet needs of the surrounding North Philadelphia neighborhood, none of which will be addressed by a stadium,

Whereas we understand that the Philadelphia Eagles are charging Temple an extortionate fee to use Lincoln Financial Field and whereas we understand that this makes a stadium of our own look more attractive but believe that better options have not been sufficiently considered and that the problems with building our own stadium have not been given sufficient weight,

Whereas there is a great deal of evidence showing that college football stadiums are poor investments and that dreams of profitable football programs most often turn out to be mirages,

Whereas Temple's students struggle with food and housing insecurity, as well as tremendous debt loads, and would be much better recipients of the money being diverted to a stadium, which we believe will in part be taken out of Temple's operating funds, if only through debt service,

Whereas it should be paramount for Temple University to refrain from any program or practice that can create health risks to Temple students and whereas evidence from research increasingly indicates that football is an inherently dangerous sport currently without adequate ability to protect students from grievous potential long-term harm,

Whereas the financial short-term potential benefits of a stadium should never be given higher priority than the health interests of our students,

Whereas a sufficient discussion about the health related risks of football have not taken place among Temple leadership at the Board or administrative leadership levels with appropriate faculty involvement,

Whereas the number of lawsuits against those who profit from football is rising sharply and will continue to rise, possibly leading to a significant financial judgment against Temple,

Whereas many colleges and schools at Temple are operating under austerity budgets,

Whereas Temple has been turning increasingly to cheaper, part-time instructors rather than increasing the full-time and especially tenure-track faculty as a percentage of the whole, diminishing Temple's role in the production of knowledge to benefit society in the future, and whereas we feel that part of the money diverted to the stadium could be better spent on recruiting, compensating and retaining full-time faculty,

Whereas Temple's North Philadelphia neighbors have expressed anger over Temple's infringement on their communities, and have demonstrated their strong disapproval of the disruption a stadium would have to their daily lives,

RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate:

- 1) urges the Board of Trustees to reverse its decision to apply to the Philadelphia Planning Commission to approve an on-campus football stadium/multi-purpose facility, and
- 2) urges the Board and Administration to provide a detailed account to the Temple community, including its neighbors, of the current and projected state of this project, including:
 - responses to the concerns expressed in this resolution
 - the feasibility study or studies it has commissioned
 - the amount of money raised thus far and the amount and projected sources of money still to be raised
 - the number of tickets that must be sold for the stadium to reach fiscal projections of savings and/or profit
 - the amount projected from parking, concessions, and other sources of revenue generated by the stadium to reach fiscal projections of savings and/or profit
 - plans should the cost of the stadium run over its projections.
- 3) urges the creation of a joint faculty/administration task force to review potential health harms to our football athletes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Jones

Past President, Faculty Senate

Department of Communication and Social Influence

Lew Klein College of Media and Communication

Paul LaFollette

Past President, Faculty Senate

Department of Computer and Information Science

College of Science and Technology

Steve Newman

Department of English

College of Liberal Arts