

KILL THE CUTS: PRESERVE THE VALUE OF YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE

Several policies coming from the federal and state level impact the opportunities and the high quality of your student experience at S&T. For collective action, AAUP represents faculty and staff and S&T Student Council (stuco.mst.edu) represents you.

Concern #1 – The federal government is selectively reducing funding, intending to cripple universities, based solely on politics.

What is the issue?

- Multi-million dollar cuts to specific universities were results of their practicing free speech, not the merits of their academic work
- Slashing financial support for “overhead”: personnel, utilities, and instrumentation critical to carrying out research

How does it affect students at Missouri S&T? Costs that are not covered by the overhead portion of a grant will have to be paid from sources such as tuition and fees. Each dollar that comes from tuition or these other sources will not be spent on the academic mission and will result in a poorer educational environment for students through decreased investment in education and decreased services and research.

Concern #2. Cuts to the Department of Education.

What is the issue? One of the things that has made America great is our investment in public education for all. Public schools receive about 30% of their budgets from the federal government, this 30% makes **operating** the schools possible, especially in poorer rural districts. On top of that, certain programs that provide teacher training and other school improvements have come from the Department of Education for decades, while control of schools still remains local.

How does it affect students at Missouri S&T? You and your future children will face lower quality education, especially in much of mid-Missouri because of the loss of money for schools to have high-quality teachers and programs. Keeping teachers’ qualifications current is essential for all students. State agencies and S&T have to take funds from other departments to pay for the loss of federal funds for our teacher training programs. Even before recent cuts, academic departments at S&T were all cutting budgets, making this loss catastrophic. Lastly, fellowships from the Department of Education fund doctoral students at S&T who teach and conduct vital research.

Concern #3 – New and selective restrictions limit travel to and from the US, even for study and research.

What is the issue? The federal government implemented travel restrictions to and from specific countries where faculty and students need or want to travel for research, study-abroad, or networking. Those countries are being targeted for the government’s positions on current world affairs, not because of the actions of the citizens. The current administration has used the threat of arrest and detention to intimidate current legal immigrants, visitors, residents, and potential talent coming to the university; these actions have been blocked by courts, yet endure.

How does this affect students at Missouri S&T? Both financially and intellectually. The university depends on tuition, and more importantly, intellectual contributions from international students. S&T’s international reputation attracts global talent. Limiting travel will make the research and educational environment at Missouri S&T weaker. No benefits result from less opportunity, less innovation, and fewer networks for undergraduate and graduate students to work with the best and brightest scholars. Decades of intercultural exchange have proven the benefits of international academic partnerships. The faculty and students at S&T demonstrate the benefits of international academic collaboration every day.

Resources for S&T Green card and Visa holders: 1) AILA “Know Your Rights” and 2) Washington University “Know Your Rights” (oiss.washu.edu/know-your-rights/)

Concern #4 – Censorship is a threat to your rights to free speech and academic freedom.

What is the issue? Free speech is a fundamental right, with few restrictions. Academic freedom relies on free speech and is the bedrock of progress in science, technology, and the arts. Without academic freedom for faculty, students will not be exposed to the plurality of ideas that enables you to form an educated perspective. The federal government violates civil liberties when targeting people who defend the rights, dignity, and humanity of unpopular groups.

How does it affect students at Missouri S&T? Hearing a single ideology makes your education weaker, reduces your critical thinking capacity, and is blatantly un-Constitutional. It is your right to form and express your own opinion after hearing a multitude of views. Censorship and repression deprive you of this right and go against the very concept of higher education and democracy, which requires an informed and educated citizenry.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP.org) advances a number of issues at universities, including academic freedom and shared governance, ensuring higher education’s contribution to the common good, and shaping American higher education by developing the standards and procedures that maintain quality in education and academic freedom in this country’s colleges and universities. S&T has a local chapter of AAUP (mstaup.org), and its members are committed to this day of action: Kill the Cuts.