

For Immediate Release:
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First WVU Admin Resigns - Alternative *Stewardship Plan* Cuts Admin; No Majors, Layoffs

Simultaneous with WVU senior leadership getting word of the plan and Vice President Rob Alsop's resignation, today *Stewards of WVU* publicly released the *Stewardship Plan*, an alternative to WVU President Gordon Gee's controversial *Transformation Plan*. Where the Transformation Plan cuts 32 academic majors and lays off 220-430 largely teaching staff, the Stewardship Plan doesn't cut any majors or result in any reduction in workforce. Instead, the Stewardship Plan cuts the WVU administration, or General Institutional Support (G.I.S.), budget by 15% and calls for a change of university leadership. Both plans achieve the necessary \$45 Million budget cuts identified as needed by the current senior administration.

To close a \$45 Million budget gap the highly controversial Transformation Plan was proposed earlier this academic year by President Gee, voted on by the WVU board of Governors September 13, and has been received with unprecedented objection and outrage. The WVU Faculty senate voted no confidence in President Gee September 12. Publications from the Wall Street Journal to Inside Higher Ed have called the current plan, "an evisceration" and "the demise of higher education" amid concerns that it could be a bellwether for things to come in higher ed. While parts of the Transformation plan have started being put into action the full plan will not be complete until May 2024.

The alternative Stewardship Plan cuts WVU's administration budget by 15% and also features a 2.4% across the board salary and wage rate adjustment affecting all WVU employees except for a) GIS employees, b) Athletic department employees and c) all WVU Employees earning less than \$75,000. Both plans also involve voluntary early retirements.

"The Stewardship Plan is reflective of the principles of solidarity & subsidiarity" says Frank DeGeorge, the accountant and adjunct professor of finance who teaches in WVU's John Chambers College of Business & Economics and developed the Stewardship Plan. "Solidarity, because we shouldn't fire 220-430 people and eliminate 32 programs if we can all sacrifice a little and accomplish the same goal." "And subsidiarity, because it is the GIS department that has ballooned steadily during the Gee administration and needs to be reeled in. The Stewardship Plan does not provide guidance regarding application of the 15% reduction which will no doubt be made up of some combination of work-force reductions, salary and wage rate reductions and deep cuts in outside consulting costs. The determination of these cuts will be in the hands of the new senior administration."

The only workforce reductions called for by the Stewardship Plan are the replacements of President E. Gordon Gee, and Vice President Rob Alsop and Maryanne Reed, the authors and sponsors of the Transformation Plan. President Gee announced the resignation of Vice President Alsop at 1:00pm today, Oct 31, coincident with senior administration learning of the Stewardship Plan earlier this week.



Stewards of WVU is accepting signatures and anonymous signs of support. You can view, sign-on and support the Stewardship Plan at stewardsofwvu.org.

To financially support the Stewardship Plan, the Stewards of WVU recommends that you contact the WVU Foundation and make yourself known as a Steward of West Virginia University, thereby linking the donation to WVU's adoption of the Stewardship Plan.

TELL WVU TO STOP THE CUTS

Sign-On & Support the Stewardship Plan

CURRENT ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION PLAN

ALTERNATIVE WVU STEWARDSHIP PLAN

50* (\$9.7m)	Voluntary Retirements	50* (\$9.7m)
32 (\$20.1m)	Majors/Programs Cut Resulting 169 Employee Reduction in Force	0
175-260 (\$15.3m)	Additional Teaching & Staff Layoffs	0
0	2.4% Rate Reduction**	\$13.6m
0	15% Admin (GIS) Cuts Replace Leadership	\$21.7m

*Estimate. Awaiting transparency from GIS

**Across the board

Either Plan Could Close WVU's \$45m Budget Gap

WHICH IS YOUR WVU?

SOWVU

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