1. Valerie Schrader, Faculty; Alumni - Submitted written comment
New surcharge for students taking 19+ credits;

As a professor at one of the commonwealth campuses and a Penn State alumna, I am asking the Board of Trustees to please reconsider the new surcharge policy for students taking 19+ credits that was passed last month. This new surcharge is hurting our students, especially students at smaller campuses who are often first generation students and/or students of limited financial means. By charging them when they take more than 18 credits, the university is preventing many of these students from taking on minors and research credits that could greatly benefit them in their careers. Some students are even going so far as to take classes that they know will transfer (such as foreign language) at community colleges instead of Penn State in order to save money. I understand the Board’s concern that some students are taking an extraordinary amount of credits in order to graduate in 3 years, but this is not the case for commonwealth campus students. Our students want to get the most out of their education, and that often involves one or more minors and participation in undergraduate research, both of which are negatively impacted by this new policy. Students simply are choosing not to take undergraduate research credits or classes for a minor because they don’t have the money to pay the surcharge for an extra class each semester. It also came as a surprise to our students just before the start of the semester, which meant that many students had to quickly drop classes to avoid the surcharge. Please reconsider the surcharge, or at the very least, raise the limit of course credits to 21. This new policy does not benefit our students and does not support our land grant mission to benefit our local communities, of which the majority of commonwealth campus students are members.

2. Jacob Seiler, Student - Submitted written comment
Sustainability;

Sustainability is one of the most important things to students right now. It is also crucial to Penn State’s future. We need public support for a climate action plan as soon as possible. And we need to build on the current sustainability efforts for education and waste reduction. These are pressing issues for us at Penn State and for society. Penn State is a leader in many ways and areas, and we have to step up to these challenges and lead- it is our responsibility as a university, a land grant institution, and as a leader to find solutions and empower change for the better and forge a sustainable future.

3. Jerry Schwartz, Alumni - Submitted written comment
Penn State budget, and more specifically the failure to allocate money for The Daily Collegian.

I write as a former editor-in-chief of The Daily Collegian – and as a 45-year veteran of The Associated Press who retired last year amid much acclaim (some of it even deserved). Mine was an amazing career, and it might have played out similarly even if I had never worked at the Collegian. But I doubt it. True, I brought certain talents for writing and editing to the table, and I honed them at what was then the
School of Journalism. But at the Collegian I learned other, vital lessons: How to deal with recalcitrant sources (mostly, Penn State administrators). How to cope with myriad complaints from the public, some of them self-serving but others prompted by mistakes made by neophyte journalists. How to greet each day with creativity and enthusiasm, despite it all. And most of all, how to lead a stalwart staff that was utterly dedicated to the mission of informing the university community.

It was, without a doubt, the most formative experience of my life, and I know that other members of that stalwart staff feel the same way. They – and so many others over the past 135 years – have gone on to bring credit to our alma mater. More importantly, they have brought light to the world, playing major roles in journalism and thus in our democracy.

Which brings us to the decision to cut out funding to the Collegian. Look, I get it. The university is struggling with a deficit; it must have seemed like a no-brainer. The problem is, it was exactly that; you have jeopardized a prime source of news and information for the community, as well as an irreplaceable training tool. All at a time when commercial and political forces have put American journalism at risk. The Collegian is not just some ordinary student activity. It is an award-winning, nationally recognized newspaper, one that has drawn countless students to study journalism at Penn State. It is important in ways that organizations like the spelunking club are not -- no offense to caves or to the people who love them. I do believe that there is some recognition of this; I know that there are moves afoot to finance the newspaper and a media consortium through student activity fees, though I’m not convinced that this would suffice or would allow for long-term planning. Efforts are being made to raise money for a Collegian endowment, and I know that I and others will divert all our annual Penn State giving to that cause. But I implore you: Please recognize what an exceptional asset Penn State has in the Collegian. Please reconsider these draconian cuts, so generations of students will have access to the news of their school – and generations of their classmates will experience the joy of gathering it for them.

4. George McTurk, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Get your act together;

University finances are in complete disarray and the financial office had better shape up. Wall Street Journal ranked PSU just behind Kentucky as spending the most since 2000. I l suggest an accounting course for financial officers

5. Alice Teeple, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Collegian; Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

Do not defund the Daily Collegian. As a music journalist and photographer who got her start working with the Collegian as a cartoonist in the late 90s, with many friends and colleagues who wrote for the paper and still work in journalism, this is the one crown jewel that Penn State has offered. I have nothing but utter contempt for the decision to divert funding from a formative educational experience. Divert your sports funding and give the school paper its cash.

6. Pamela Reasner, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I add my voice to those urging the university to continue funding for the Daily Collegian, an important voice in the university community but more importantly a key component of journalism education and training offered by Penn State. Journalism is evolving, and much has changed since my print career began there in the ’70s. But the need for good journalists remains, and the Collegian is evolving to produce them. The Collegian is where students practice what they learn. My experience as reporter, design editor, copy editor and finally news editor of the Collegian earned me a Dow Jones internship,
which in turn set me on a path to a 27-year journalism career. I urge you to reconsider the devastating $250,000 subsidy cut. - Pamela Reasner '77 Journalism

7. Barbara Stack, Alumni - Submitted written comment

The future of The Daily Collegian;

I know the PSU Trustees care about The Daily Collegian. Several of you, after all, are Collegian alumni, having written for this venerable Penn State institution while you were students.

Many Collegian alumni describe their experience working for the student newspaper as crucial to their career success, whether in journalism, advertising or some other profession.

The university has supported The Collegian as a learning institution for at least a half century -- since I was a journalism student at Penn State. The length of time PSU has subsidized The Collegian probably is much longer than 50 years.

Now, though, as you know, the plan is for the university to stop contributing to The Collegian after this year. Please reverse this calamitous decision.

I know that the amount of funding the university has traditionally provided to The Collegian is far below the level that the Board of Trustees normally deals with as an individual matter. That funding, however, is vital to the future of this student media. So I am asking you to please take a few minutes to discuss what the loss of The Collegian would mean to the institution of Penn State, to current students benefitting from the experience of working there and to alumni who love that media.

I am a member of the board of directors of The Collegian Alumni Interest Group, and we stand ready and willing to answer any questions you may have about this.

Please resume funding The Daily Collegian.

Thank you,
Barbara White Stack
Journalism 1975
Collegian AIG Board Secretary

8. Katy Koontz, Alumni- Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I’m shocked to hear that Penn State will no longer be providing funding for its award-winning student publication, The Daily Collegian. I was a feature writer on the Collegian staff for several years during my time at Penn State, and the education I received there was just about equal to the education I received in my journalism classes. My Penn State journalism degree meant so much more to me and to my employers with that background and experience behind it. It deeply saddens me that future students won't have that advantage.

But it saddens me even more that in these times, when journalism itself is under attack, that a university such as Penn State that has always had such a strong reputation for turning out world-class, award-winning journalists would be in essence saying it didn't care, that teaching budding journalists the ropes in such a vital way was unimportant and not worth supporting. This doesn't reflect only on the university or on the value of the degree its students earn (which is bad enough). It will contribute to the damage being done to democracy in this country by those who would rather the press be crippled or totally silenced.
You might recognize the Washington Post’s famous slogan: Democracy dies in darkness. By not funding the Collegian, the university is in a very real and direct way participating in creating that darkness. It’s simply unconscionable for Penn State to turn off the lights in the Collegian newsroom. I urge you to reconsider.

Katy Koontz
class of 1981
B.A. in journalism and B.A. in anthropology
graduated with high distinction
member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Kappa Tau Alpha, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key, and Phi Eta Sigma honors societies
feature writer for The Daily Collegian

9. Alison (Kepner) May, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Collegian funding;

I learned a lot from my professors at Penn State, but I learned how to BE a journalist at The Collegian. That is where I applied what I learned in class in real life. I learned how to report, copy edit and layout pages. It’s also where I learned to lead a staff, navigate office politics and address constituent complaints. As the paper’s 2002-03 editor in chief, I can tell you The Collegian provides job experience PSU can’t replicate. While I appreciate the organization needs to make some structural and financial changes to survive in the future, please don’t cut its funding before it can make those changes. Penn State boasts some of the nation’s best journalists and communications professionals because of its independent newspaper. It benefits everyone — current students, readers and university leadership — for it to survive and thrive.

10. Virginia Boynton, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for the Collegian;

I am writing on behalf of continuing full funding of the Collegian. It is critical that there be transparent communication regarding any and all activities related to Penn State University and students who intend to pursue a future in journalism or communications need to have a way to prepare for their careers. Cutting or worse elimination of funding is short sighted. Freedom of the press is continually being transgressed in our country, and Penn State choosing to accelerate that process within our institution is an extremely poor use of resources.

11. Kathleen Pavelko, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for the Collegian;

I am an alumna of the University (BA75, MA79) and of the Collegian, where I served in various roles (reporter, arts editor, food columnist and 1st and only Readers Representative). As a liberal arts grad moving into journalism, the Collegian was transformative for my career, in introducing me to every level of journalistic endeavor. The Collegian has done the same for generations of other students. Please do not eliminate the Collegian’s funding when other university activities are merely cut by 10 or 20%. This decision is unwise and is perceived as punitive.

12. David Skimore, Alumni

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;
I am a past editor-in-chief (1978-79) of The Daily Collegian, was selected as an Alumni Fellow in 2022, and fund a journalism scholarship in the Bellisario College of Communications. I write to strongly urge the Board to restore funding for The Collegian because it makes two vital contributions to the University.

First, it provides an important opportunity for students to gain hands-on journalism experience that cannot be matched in the classroom. My Collegian clips won me my first job in journalism, not my classroom grades. The Collegian was, and is, student-run and independent. In my time, we had an adviser, who advised, but we as students decided what to publish. We accepted responsibility for our decisions, some wise and some not so wise. I know from my discussions with Collegian editors last fall that today's students continue to take their responsibilities very seriously.

Second, and more important, Penn State needs independent journalism--focused on the University--if it is to continue to thrive as an academic community, much as our country needs independent journalism if it is to thrive as a democracy. It is not, I'm sure, always comfortable for University leaders to be the subject of the Collegian's stories and editorials. But it is far better that students read about the University in stories written by fellow students who aspire to careers as ethical and professional journalists than to rely on unfiltered social media. Penn State has been blessed to have a student newspaper since 1887. My hope is that you, as Trustees, ensure The Collegian's survival so that it can celebrate 150 years of Penn State student journalism in 2037.

13. Catherine, Buday, Alumni - Submitted written comment
Cutting funding to the Collegian;

In an era where local papers are dying and the truth has become more of a subjective concept, the world needs good journalism more than ever. The Daily Collegian was the place where many of us in the 70s learned how to search for the truth and hold powerful people accountable. Our journalism classes gave us the basics but working for the Collegian gave us the practice that we needed to go out in the world. New studies have shown that people living in communities without local newspapers are more partisan and rancorous towards one another than ever. We need to shore up local papers and we need to stock the pipeline of journalists who expose the truth, in small towns, large cities and in the seats of power. Why is the football program -- whose transgressions helped create the current financial crisis at PSU -- sacrosanct?

14. Pamela Medvecky, Alumni - Submitted written comment
The Daily Collegian funding;

The Daily Collegian is not a club or a fleeting special interest. It is a venerable institution uniquely driven and equipped to inform the expansive Penn State community. As Penn State trustees, you are tasked to protect what WE ARE. In this case, a student-run news organization integral not only to placing PSU’s School of Communications on the map, but also to effectively hardwiring real world experience into a curriculum that demands it. Please protect the Daily Collegian as the journalistic launchpad and stronghold symbol of a free press that it is. And find a way to continue to adequately fund The Daily Collegian, easily the most meaningful, consequential, future-opening component of mine and so many others’ Penn State education. Losing it would be like losing the Lion. Thank you.

15. Sheila Young, Alumni - Submitted written comment
Daily Collegian funding;

I implore the university to reconsider its decision to make a 50% cut in funding - and soon all funding - for student subscriptions to The Daily Collegian. To deny students access to the student-produced news
about the university they attend, while at the same time subsidizing subscriptions to The New York Times, eliminates an essential part of the education experience at Penn State.

In addition to its role in reporting campus news, the Collegian is also a recruiting draw for the College of Communications, as the Collegian’s roster of successful alumni can attest. I can draw a direct line from my experience at the Collegian to my time as a Washington Deputy Bureau Chief and an Assistant Managing Editor at The Baltimore Sun. Please do not deprive Penn State students and outstanding future journalists of this outstanding resource.

16. Patty Rhule, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Daily Collegian funding;

Please do not end funding for The Daily Collegian. Freedom of the press is protected by the First Amendment — an essential freedom. The Collegian has been a training ground for quality journalists for decades. As local newsrooms struggle with economic uncertainty, the need for factual reporting has never been more urgent. Protect this powerhouse example of student press freedom. Thank you.

17. Doug Bell, Alumni - Submitted written comment

De-funding of the Collegian;

I write to protest the de-funding of the Daily Collegian. I was managing editor of the Collegian in 1980-81, after serving as a reporter and copy editor in previous years. I went on to a 40-year career in journalism, which included a Pulitzer Prize and several other major awards — and no part of that career would have been possible without the lessons I learned at the Collegian. The Collegian has launched the careers of thousands of journalists through its many years, and I can't imagine a more vital contribution to our democracy and to our current desperate need for journalistic voices that are dedicated to truth, ethical reporting and government transparency.

As a college instructor in Colorado for 31 years, I've seen numerous attempts by higher-ed administrations to shut down or hamper student media. I pose this question: How might history have been different if photographer John Filo had not captured the anguish of Mary Ann Vecchio as she watched the lifeblood pour out of that young man at Kent State in May 1970? Fortunately, we'll never know, because Filo was willing to risk his own safety to tell a story that would indeed change all that came after.

By the way, Filo was not simply a photojournalist; he was a student photojournalist, who won the Pulitzer Prize for that stunning image. I often tell the aspiring reporters and photographers in my own classes never to identify themselves as “student journalists.” When doing the job, they are every bit as essential — and sometimes as accomplished — as the professionals who practice the trade.

De-funding the Collegian threatens a critical voice that traditionally has held the administration accountable. It also imperils a news source that illuminates the school’s best attributes while shining light on its shortcomings. That’s precisely what a good newspaper does, and its precisely why student journalists need the opportunity to practice the craft before playing a critical role in our democracy and providing a voice for society’s voiceless. I implore you to consider the ramifications of this decision; instead, please take steps to ensure that the Collegian remains an important training ground for future journalists.

18. Alex Barengblitt, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations; Funding support for The Daily Collegian;
Under great pressure to make drastic cuts in operating funding, one target that was identified is the partial then complete cut in any University financial support to The Daily Collegian. The Daily Collegian is not merely a "newspaper" but rather is a training ground for genuine journalists. America needs genuine, trained journalists now, as it always has, and too many "news channels" across the internet are staffed by news entertainers. Please reconsider funding.

19. Marjorie Downer Arciniega, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

As an undergraduate student I was a member of the Collegian staff for 4 years, which was very influential in my obtaining interviews and my first job after graduation. The Collegian is known across the country as a quality product which trains students well for their futures. In fact each semester they are on the staff can equate to having an internship.

Without the finances provided towards operating expenses by the University there is a very real possibility that the Collegian will have to cut back to a few days a week or less. Since I am retired and living in Mexico, the Collegian online is my first source of information about campus activities. I would be devastated if, after 61 years, I am no longer able to keep up with Penn State.

But I would feel even worse for all the students, current and future, who will lose this amazing learning opportunity. I also worry about the number of fine future communications students the University would lose if they chose Ohio State, Missouri, or Colombia because they could have hands-on training there that they could not find at Penn State.

By financing the Collegian you would be continuing to provide financial support for a real teaching tool, training that students could not find in any other student venue. In addition, the Collegian is a respected source of news to students and alumni alike, as well as the entire University staff. (When was the last time you read the Collegian?) How many other activities and programs that receive University funding can say they work in direct benefit of so many students and staff?

20. Lillian Mittleman, Alumni

University's decision to stop funding The Collegian;

For decades, PSU has had a premier journalism program, including the award-winning Collegian. I can attest that the on-the-job experience I gained as a Collegian staff member helped me learn the craft and get a job after graduation. I understand the need to control costs. However, eliminating funding for the Collegian is a terrible option. The University will lose students and prestige without this outstanding learning opportunity, compounding the fiscal problems.

21. Justin Catanoso, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for The Daily Collegian;

As a Penn State alum, class of 1982, and Collegian alum for four years, I know how important the student newspaper is to the life of the campus, from students to faculty to administration. There is no substitute for an independent press, especially when made up of students, in telling untold stories on campus and holding power to account. The university’s funding of the Collegian is less an expense than it is an investment in the very values the university holds dear, starting with open communications, and free and robust exchange of ideas, and free speech. Look no further than the issue of UNC’s equally prestigious Daily Tar Heel after a campus shooting and murder of a beloved faculty member recently. The newspaper gave voice to a scared and grieving student body in ways no other medium cab, and posed vital questions to those in charge. The Collegian served the same role in my four years at the paper, and in years prior and since. Student newspapers across the country are filling an important void left by the
decimation of local daily newspapers. Starving the Collegian only starves a great university. Please reconsider this critical funding decision.

22. Beverly Redler, Alumni - Submitted written comment

The Daily Collegian;

I'm writing to support continued University support for The Daily Collegian. A student news resource—especially one independent of the university—serves its constituents in the purest way possible. A breeding ground for professionalism, rational thought and fact-based inquiry, this student-run entity is the very thing the university would seek to generate and proudly portray to the rest of the world.

I recently heard a story about the student newspaper at UNC after the shooting on campus. They demonstrated grace, fortitude and inventiveness in two critical ways—how they represented the impact on the university community through reprinted text messages, and how they swallowed all of their own myriad emotions—including bewilderment and grief—to focus on getting the next issue published. It reminds me of several newspapers in the past several years that have faced stunning disruption yet in spite of that felt the necessity all the more to publish, to NOT be silenced.

The Daily Collegian is just that same kind of resource, with that same kind of grit, talent, determination. Not only the University, but the University community NEEDS this resource— to speak truth, to give voice, and to do so always on a foundation of reason. Preserving The Daily Collegian on campus is almost a civic duty, offering a place for the next generation of adults to approach complex questions with a healthy dose of skepticism AND the appropriate methods to investigate those queries and make reasoned conclusions.

While The Daily Collegian deserves the university’s support on its own merits, it also is a very unfortunate message being sent that an independent news source should be abandoned by Penn State. There are many other student-run activities that accept financial resources that may—or may not—represent the views of the university; it’s the activity itself, not what it says or stands for, that warrants support. I know The Daily Collegian is different from other student organizations, but the message is the same. Thank you for your consideration, I hope you choose to support The Daily Collegian going forward.

23. Matthew Smedley, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Daily Collegian support;

Dear Trustees, I implore you to consider a robust funding source for the Daily Collegian. I wrote for the Collegian during my 1992-1996 school term, and I still follow them including all the way from Melbourne, Australia, where I've been living the last 5.5 years. It's an amazing institution and one that deserves your full-throated support!

24. Walter Meyer, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for The Daily Collegian;

My experience at The Daily Collegian was invaluable for my writing career. I have written published books (so far) and hundreds of articles for newspapers and magazines (often for editors at those publications whom I knew from the Collegian. I think funding the Collegian is important not only for the experience it will give the students on the staff, but as a service for all of the other students, faculty, and staff to keep them informed of what is going on at the university. Please restore the funding to support this important institution. Thank you.
25. MaryLee Ruth, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I am stunned that the Board of Trustees has meekly gone along with the president's plan to end funding for The Daily Collegian. To withdraw support is to begin the decline and termination of the publication. The Collegian has been a longstanding, well respected institution, providing journalism students with a unique opportunity to produce a daily paper. While the president may not feel that the scrutiny and sometimes criticisms by students are welcome, it is important to provide the students with a voice to express their views. Freedom of speech is an American ideal. To squelch it under the guise of lack of funds is laughable. It does not go unnoticed to the casual observer that the university has plenty of money to spend on coaches' salaries and private jets for the president, yet can't provide a relatively small amount of money for this important student experience, which provides a service to all students.

26. Tim Panaccio, Alumni - Submitted written comment

funding for the Daily Collegian;

I had 44 Years in Journalism, 25 of which were spent at the Phila Inquirer, where I was a 2x Pulitzer Finalist with its investigative team. My career began at the Daily Collegian. I'm an example of the alums your school turned out. How many future journalists are going to go by the wayside if you effectively kill the tool that created so many of us? It's unconscionable.

27. Bruce Gochnour, Alumni - Submitted written comment

The university's decision to stop funding The Collegian.;

How can the university stop funding The Collegian? The collegian provided invaluable journalistic experience that undoubtedly enhanced the education of those who worked there. The funding amount is a drop in the bucket compared to the university's budget. Penn State has an enormous endowment that continues to grow. The BOT needs to ensure its financial resources are used appropriately to improve the quality of education for its students. The Collegian is one of the most practical examples of real-life experience that is offered to students who have worked for the paper.

28. Joan Kirschner, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for The Daily Collegian;

Funding for The Daily Collegian is vital. The newspaper serves the purpose of informing the university community about important issues both on-campus and in the wider world. And, for generations, the newspaper has helped launch student journalists, and marketing, advertising, and business majors into productive and successful careers. I know this for a fact – I was one of them. Now, however, there is another urgent reason for funding: only responsible, well-trained journalists can combat the flow of dangerous misinformation flooding media outlets and the internet, including social media. The Daily Collegian provides the opportunity for young adults to gain a deep understanding of modern media by participating in what is essentially on-the-job journalism training. It would be a tragedy to end this due to a lack of funding, and deny all these potential journalists, our Woodwards, Bernsteins, Habermans, Wolfes, and Goodmans of the future, this opportunity. Such journalists of note, whose work I have read over the years, and whose articles and books have broadened and enriched my thinking, might be joined by our current Penn State students who have the potential to go on from their Collegian background and training to important and influential work of their own. I urge University President Neeli Bendapudi to consider these points and restore funding. It is the only responsible and ethical thing to do and is in the best
interests of Penn State’s students, the university at large, and the greater good of our endangered democracy. Don’t let this storied Penn State institution wither away – it deserves funding and support, not a death sentence.

29. Martin J. Smith, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for The Daily Collegian;

I graduated from PSU with a BA in journalism in 1978. I've had a 40-year career as a newspaper reporter, columnist, and editor, including as a senior editor of the Los Angeles Times Magazine. I'm also the author of published five novels and five nonfiction books. None of that would have happened without The Daily Collegian, which was so absolutely fundamental to my education as a journalist and writer that I'd trade my experiences at the student newspaper for every class I took at Penn State. And I mean every class. I'm appalled by the idea that the university would cut funding to that vital learning tool at a time when, more than ever, America needs well-trained and ethical journalists. It's like eliminating laboratory work for scientists and engineers. I recognize that the university must balance priorities in difficult times, but this decision strikes me as fundamentally wrong and misguided. If it stands, it will signal to those of us who care deeply about our profession that our donations will be better directed to other universities that understand the value of journalism in this age of misinformation and provide the tools necessary for young journalists to learn the craft. Please reconsider.

30. David Morris, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for Daily Collegian;

I urge the Trustees to reconsider and reverse the decision to eliminate University funding for The Daily Collegian. The Collegian performs a vital role in informing the Penn State community and is a vital cog in Penn State’s communications program. Cuts are understandable in this era of belt tightening, but zeroing out funding seems shortsighted and inappropriate. Thank you.

31. Donald Wagner, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Decision to not fund the Collegian;

Hello. I am a Major in the US Army*, having just completed my 18th year on active duty. I currently serve as a military lawyer (judge advocate). I literally would not be where I am today without the Collegian. A few examples to illustrate my point, if I may.

My very first job out of college; given to me by a close friend I met at the Collegian.

My second job, covering Penn State football for Blue-White Illustrated as the assistant editor; all based on a recommendation by another friend I met at the Collegian. He also vouched for me with my future employer. While working at BWI, I met my wife, who I now share three wonderful boys with. We are approaching our 18th wedding anniversary.

While I eventually left journalism, the writing skills I learned at the Collegian serve me to this day. Rarely a day goes by where I don’t do something writing related and stop and laugh because it’s often something I learned at the Collegian. As a command legal advisor, general officers rely on my writing and analytic ability to make crucial decisions. Those skills were learned and honed at the Collegian. Without that experience, I would not be able to communicate through my writing (and also help others with theirs) nearly as well as I do.

You do not have to look far for other examples. Your current alumni magazine editor. A Collegian alum.

The NFL’s Senior Vice President of Football & International Communications. A Collegian alum. A former nationally acclaimed Sports Illustrated writer and current ESPN.com front page feature writer. Both Collegian alums. One of Pittsburgh’s top sports columnists. A Collegian alum. And then there are the endless authors, publishers, communication directors, PR directors and so on who work every day to
deliver news and information to society at large. All count themselves fortunate to have had the Collegian help them learn their craft.
Fortunately, I am lucky enough to call many of these people friends; and I met most of them at the Collegian. We remain friends and I have relied on my Collegian network more times than I can count. For jobs. To help find a co-worker tickets. To grieve, To celebrate. Those foundational friendships and memories have literally helped shape who I am today and would not have been possible without the Collegian.
In closing, intentionally choosing to not fund this important on-the-job training resource is a mistake. However, if you do decide to fund it, it is incumbent on you to ensure the students who benefit are able to publish freely without censorship, even for views you may not agree with. As someone who fights every day for our rights and freedoms, the right to free speech cannot be emphasized enough.

Thank you for your time,
Donald E. Wagner '97 JOURN

* All views are my own and do not represent those of the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

32. Marie Green-McKeon, Alumni - Submitted written comment

The Daily Collegian;

I am a PSU journalism graduate who worked at The Collegian -- resulting in a nearly 50-year career in journalism, marketing, and corporate writing and editing, as well as authoring two novels. I never would have been able to get this kick-started without The Collegian, easily the best of my PSU experiences. This can't be allowed to fail for future students. I implore the Board to save this extraordinary institution.

33. Julie Nash, Alumni; Parent of current Student - Submitted written comment

Investment in The Daily Collegian;

When I started at Penn State in the summer of 1991, the first thing I did was to find out how to work on The Daily Collegian. Turns out, there was a test process, an interview, and a training program. Staff at the Collegian took this process seriously because it was an honor and privilege to work on the paper. In the end, working at the Collegian is how I learned to be a writer, a problem solver, a leader, and a manager. The Collegian helped get me to where I am today – a previous business owner who sold my company to publishing company, John Wiley & Sons, and now work as business development leader there.

Please reconsider you decision to de fund the Collegian. I'm proud of the work we did on the paper in the 1990s and for all the student leaders who have succeeded after. The Collegian is an award-winning publication that is respected throughout the journalism community. Please don't take that away from the journalism school and university.

34. Paula Gochnour, Alumni; Parent of Current Student - Submitted written comment

Collegian support;

As a former staff member of the Daily Collegian who now lives in Texas, I find the University's actions to cut the Collegian budget most troubling. First, the Collegian provides the best way for us to stay in touch with what is really happening at Penn State. It has always covered subjects that at times differed from official university opinions as an unbiased source of news. Second, the friendships developed have continued to this day. This is not the case for those I met in classwork, though I have stayed in touch with
a few from my dorm. Third, it provides a source of discussion for students who have little in common when sitting in a cafeteria or dorm. Having seen Texas A&M shut down its journalism program in a similar budget cutback only to stumble in bringing it back recently, I know well what can happen if only one side of the story is told. Finally, it provides a training ground for future journalists and provides clips and related proof of work to potential employers in a profession where careers are tough to launch and everyone wants someone with a year or two of experience. I have my own theories of why the budget is in such a mess and would encourage you to call me for further discussion. For now, please save the Collegian budget in its entirety. Thank you for allowing our comments.

35. William Guthlein, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Defunding The Daily Collegian;

I understand university funding of The Daily Collegian is being phased out. I am writing to express my dismay over this decision as The Collegian can and should be delivering benefits worthy of financial support. First, The Collegian provides a professional development opportunity for students who work there. Second, The Collegian helps to build an informed and engaged community. The way of delivering content is shifting away from print newspapers, but these benefits are not tied to a physical paper.

Benefits to Student Journalists
I am a 1974 business school alumnus. For recreation I was a sports journalist at The Collegian. The experience was helpful to me in my business career as I believe it was for the journalism majors who worked there and developed practical skills in reporting and editing. In particular The Collegian honed skills in clear and concise writing and editing, differentiating between news/facts and editorial opinion, interviewing, researching to prepare more in-depth stories, fact checking, curating content for your audience, and assuming job responsibilities. More than ever, in an online world that can deliver a vast amount of dubious information and outlandish opinions, these are important skills that can be sharpened through a student news product.

Benefits to the Community
The State College community benefits when its members are informed and engaged about campus events, policies, and issues. Penn State students, faculty, staff and neighbors benefit from a reliable source of community news and a forum for reasonable dialogue and debate. The Collegian has traditionally performed this role. In comparison with other media The Collegian has published more in-depth reporting on local issues, investigations, and feature stories that matter to readers.

With the proper resourcing, The Collegian can deliver a substantial "social good" whatever format it takes.

Thank you for your consideration.

36. James Stack, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for The Daily Collegian;

Trustees,
Please consider restoring university funding for The Daily Collegian. This vital student training ground is the reason my wife secured good jobs in journalism. While studying at PSU, she spent long hours every day working at The Collegian while I studied my civil engineering texts. Those long hours served to provide important experience that helped her get her first job and helped her perform well in that position. Without university support, the continued existence of The Collegian is threatened. Please resume support!
37. Nancy Spalding, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Collegian Budget Cut;

I believe that the University should continue to fund a free and independent newspaper for students to learn journalism and for all students to have an outlet to freely express opinions and views. The newspaper should be a professional and honest media for students to report on issues important to them even if it results in criticism of University Leadership. Students and University leaders learn from independent thinking. Yes, I understand that students have access to all kinds of media and are not dependent on Collegian reporting but the trend towards obliteration of the "local newspaper" takes away from the sense of community and grass root efforts to accomplish what is good for a community.

38. Mike Mentrek, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I am a 1979 graduate of the university. I am writing to ask that the trustees reconsider their plan to reduce and eventually eliminate funding for The Daily Collegian. I was a member of the Collegian staff for four years and found the experience to be among the most formative of my time at Penn State. I feel the lessons I learned in production of a daily newspaper -- meeting deadlines, finding sources, distilling information from meetings or reports, and more -- were just as important in shaping me as a journalist as were my classroom lessons. I found this to be true of any other student who was involved in the student newspaper -- in classroom interactions, it was always obvious that they were the best prepared to absorb and adapt the information presented to real-world situations. Working on The Collegian provided an invaluable leg up in this sense. I hope you will see the value of such an experience for future journalism and communications students -- especially in a splintering media environment, filled with misinformation or artificially produced information, the more hands-on experience students can gain, the better they will be able to serve all of society. They will learn to question and not be spoon-fed information.

I realize the university is facing financial constraints, but I would ask you to consider the value that The Collegian creates not just for the students who work there but for the student body as a whole -- not only in bringing issues to light and presenting unbiased information, but also in creating a sense of cohesiveness in what is a sprawling campus. A trusted and reliable student "voice" for news and commentary will provide common ground and a shared experience, much as newspapers create a sense of community and encourage involvement and engagement in the cities they serve. Without this shared resource, students will be likely to further retreat to their own "silos," and an opportunity to feel like a part of the university will be lost.

Finally, I would ask that if the current funding model is untenable, that you not simply end it and leave the Collegian staff and their board of directors to fend for themselves in finding a solution. By doing that, you risk ending a long and proud decades-long tradition of a student newspaper at the university. Failing continued direct financial support, please work with Dean Harden in exploring other funding options to create a model for making The Collegian financially sustainable for the long term.

Thank you for listening and giving me and other alumni a chance to speak on this issue.
Mike Mentrek
Content editor, Cleveland, Advance Local Publications
Class of 1979

39. Rossilynn Culgan, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

As an alumna of Penn State, I am deeply concerned about the university’s decision to stop funding The Daily Collegian. I spent four years at The Collegian during my undergraduate years working my way up from reporter to editor-in-chief, and it prepared me for my career in journalism. Journalism is, in a way,
trade. It needs to be practiced to be learned. Even the best classes and best professors at the university can’t provide the crucial, hands-on, real-world experience that the Collegian can.

The Collegian prepared me to step into a newsroom on day one with experience as a writer and an editor. From reporting on local news stories to writing about the world’s biggest arts and culture institutions, I can trace every word back to The Collegian. I would not have my job as an editor at a major publication in New York City without my experience at the student newspaper.

Penn State’s mission is to create new knowledge and understanding and foster creativity and innovation. The students of the Collegian do that daily with every article for the benefit of fellow students, faculty, and the community. Given how mission-aligned The Collegian is with Penn State, it was especially surprising and disturbing to hear about the proposed budget cuts.

Particularly at a time when journalism is under attack, democracy is being eroded, and we live in a post-truth world, we need journalists now more than ever. Penn State draws some of the brightest and most curious minds to its journalism program, and it’s imperative that the university support these students in learning the rigors of daily news in real time.

The Daily Collegian ranks as one of the top student-led college newspapers in the country — and it’s got the awards to prove it. Prospective students (and their parents) pay attention to these accolades. I know I did because I was confident I’d learn how to do ethical, important journalism by working at The Collegian. I came to Penn State because of the Collegian, and I’d hate to see students like me turn away from Penn State because of this funding decision.

Please restore funding for The Collegian. It’s not only an investment in students’ learning, it’s an investment in the literacy of the entire campus. The Collegian has been a beloved institution on campus since 1887, and this funding cut would be a death knell for an important Penn State voice.

40. Lynne Margolis, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Protesting funding cuts to Daily Collegian;

Universities are supposed to support the ideal of inquiry, and train tomorrow’s leaders and good citizens. But a university unwilling to instill those values by supporting an independent student news operation like the Daily Collegian apparently isn’t truly committed to that mission. It certainly isn’t committed to teaching real journalism — the kind that holds leaders accountable and recognizes those who do good deeds; the democracy-upholding kind the First Amendment (reproduced word-for-word right in the Carnegie Building lobby!) was designed to protect.

It’s unfathomable that any university with a functioning journalism department, much less one that has produced as many top-notch journalists as Penn State has, would rob its students of such an important vehicle for learning — much less rob the campus community of that vital independent voice, regardless of whether it exists in print or becomes an online-only entity.

If Penn State won’t fund the Collegian, an essential journalism training ground for 136 years, why even bother to continue offering the major? I was shocked to discover the portal designed to attract journalism students doesn’t even mention the Collegian. Maybe it’s logical to downplay print journalism, but not the print-style skills required to become a journalist. I know from working next to them that journalists without student-newspaper experience weren’t as well-trained or prepared when they started their careers.

Killing the university’s main avenue for students to hone their craft (not to mention a beloved entity as old as Penn State’s football team) suggests the university doesn’t value journalism, which isn’t a message it
should be sending — because it also suggests an effort to avoid scrutiny, disguised as an effort to save
money. Tom Junod, who cowrote, with Paula Lavigne, the extraordinary account of Todd Hodne and his
victims, just noted, in a social media post about another award their reporting won, how it took “two years
to reclaim [the victims’] stories from an icily enforced institutional silence.” Penn State has not fared well
under journalistic scrutiny in the last several years. It’s hard not to draw conclusions about underlying
motivations for pivoting away from creating more journalists who might unearth unpleasant truths, asking
pesky questions such as why a university that can afford to pay a $7 million salary can’t afford to put even
a few grand toward assuring the best training possible for tomorrow’s keepers of democracy — which is
hanging by a thread and needs journalistic watchdogs more than ever. Without independent journalism,
who knows how much longer it will survive?

I’m proud of the journalism degree I earned at Penn State, but without the Collegian, I wouldn’t have had
the career I did. If students won’t have opportunities to receive the kind of education I did at Penn State,
maybe it’s time for donors to support universities who still uphold the mission of creating future members
of the Fourth Estate — the troops responsible for speaking truth to power and busting through veils of
“icily enforced institutional silence” so we don’t become just another fascist country.

41. Paula Trimble, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding for The Daily Collegian;

I respectfully urge the Board of Trustees to reconsider their decision to cease funding for The Daily
Collegian. The existence of a student-run, daily newspaper serving the Penn State community was the
single most compelling reason that I chose to attend Penn State in 1994, and my time working at The
Daily Collegian was the most influential for my career. The hands-on experience gained working at a daily
news publication augmented my studies in the College of Communications, and led to my hiring prior to
graduation at community newspapers, and subsequently a major national trade newspaper. Eliminating
funding for the Collegian will not only hamper the University's ability to attract students and rising news
and advertising professionals, but it will harm the future of journalism education. There is no replacement
for putting out a paper on a daily basis; I firmly believe it is the reason I was hired immediately fresh out of
college. I had clips, real experience covering news events, to include a shooting, a plane crash, elections,
and town/gown relations. The Daily Collegian is part of Penn State's hallmark as a university that values
real-world experience and fosters personal and professional development outside the classroom. Thank
you for your consideration.

42. Lynn Schoof, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Funding to the Daily Collegian;

When I was an incoming journalism student at Penn State, I knew that practical experience was going to
be essential in finding a job after graduation. I learned of The Daily Collegian's reputation, and how many
professional journalists started at the Collegian, and I knew I needed to be on staff.

Through my 5 semesters on the Daily Collegian staff, one as a candidate, three as a reporter and one as
an editor, I had the experience to show to potential employers when I graduated and entered the job
market. My first boss was a Collegian alum, as well as many colleagues.

The experience that student journalists receive while working for the Daily Collegian is invaluable when it
comes to learning journalism, building professional relationships with sources and colleagues, and
building portfolios to be employable after graduation. Without the Daily Collegian, I truly do not know if I
could’ve gotten a job in journalism. Actual journalism can not just be taught in a classroom. Covering a
fire, a council meeting or building relationships with sources isn't taught in the classroom.
Funding is imperative to keep The Daily Collegian around for journalism students as a way to gain practical experience as the field changes consistently. Though journalism may look different today than it did in 2012, it is still important to keep training young journalists to do more than write lists--but to look into the stories that impart change in our communities and impact the world. Please, keep funding for the Daily Collegian, and all student media, as they are more than teaching tools for those who want to ensure our democracy remains intact, but essential to ensuring alumni gain paying jobs in the fields they want to enter.

43. Kristin Lidgett-Stoller, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

When I was looking for colleges to attend in 2009, my top deciding factor was the prestige of each university’s college newsletter. I always knew I wanted to be a journalist, and as I flipped through the Princeton Review that year, I saw The Daily Collegian ranked in the top 10. As a Connecticut native, I’d never heard of Penn State—but this award (and subsequent visits to tour the Collegian newsroom) made me pick Penn State.

I owe the Collegian everything. It was thanks to the Collegian that I landed my first jobs and internships. I built up incredibly strong clips that I never would have had I just been a College of Comm student. I learned more there than I learned in my four years of daily classes. To this day, employers still ask me about the stories I wrote at the Collegian between 2010 and 2014—and many have admitted they’ve hired me because of it.

Student journalism is vital - not only for our society at large, which is struggling with a free and honest press, but for college recruitment. Without the Collegian, I would have easily selected NYU, Northwestern or one of the schools with more prestigious daily student papers. Cutting funding to a student paper that’s already struggling is a death sentence. The BOT needs to immediately reverse this heinous decision and restore the Collegian’s funding. Penn State used to have a reputation for being one of the best journalism schools in the country, many thanks to the Collegian. I’m embarrassed and enraged to see the university devaluing journalism and media in this way.

44. Mitch Chernoff, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Daily Collegian funding;

I urge restoration of funding for the award-winning student newspaper. I consider my years as a Collegian reporter (1970-1973) one of my most important learning experiences. I was the USG beat writer through my senior year and what I learned working for the Collegian led to a career of almost 50 years in publishing. I can’t imagine Penn State without the Collegian - the university’s support is crucial.

45. Darian Somers, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Daily Collegian Funding;

To defund the Daily Collegian is to cut off the lifeblood of Penn State's proud journalism program. Penn State can not defund this organization as it is the single most impowering tool for journalism students to grow, beyond any classroom experience. If Penn State wants to remain a respected school for journalism education then it can not do this.

46. Mary Anne Mulligan, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Support for continued funding of The Daily Collegian;
Generations of Penn State students have studied communications in class and practiced what they learned at The Daily Collegian. In many cases, students like us were equipped to immediately enter the job market, ready to assume responsibility for a daily newspaper beat or jump in on a copy desk.

The Collegian experience gave us a head start in our first jobs and enabled us to build solid careers at daily newspapers or magazines or PR or academia or anything else we decided to do. You can’t gain those skills in a classroom, so we were way ahead of our peers from other respected universities.

I’m sure there are other important priorities these days, but the small amount that the university contributes to the Collegian is important too. I strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to end funding for the Collegian.

Mary Anne Mulligan
Editorial Copy Manager, AARP
PSU Journalism ’79

47. Whiteney Stack, Alumni - Submitted written comment

The Daily Collegian;

Dear Trustees,
When I was a student at Penn State from 2006 to 2010, the Daily Collegian was an important news source for me, giving me information about both the university and the world in general. I relied on The Collegian to tell me what was happening on campus and to inform me about important world events. I understand that the university has decided to defund the Collegian, causing the student newspaper to fall into financial turmoil and threatening its very existence. Please restoring university subsidies for this important news source for student.
In addition, just as importantly, please resume support for this learning vehicle for future journalists and advertising executives. It would be a tragedy for a university like Penn State that boasts one of the best journalism programs in the country to lose its important training ground for those students.
Thank you for your consideration,
Whitney White Stack
Political Science and Philosophy 2010

48. Logan Stack, Alumni - Submitted written comment

Saving The Daily Collegian;

Dear PSU Trustees,
I am the son of a Daily Collegian alumni and know how important my mother’s experience on that student newspaper was to her success as a professional journalist. I am also a PSU computer science graduate who spent my first two years at University Park, where I read The Collegian, then moved to the Behrend campus, where I wrote for the Behrend Beacon and worked on creating a website for what was then a print-only product. So, like my mother, I have ink in my blood. Also, as a citizen, I understand how vital the Fourth Estate is to a functioning democracy. Penn State has one of the best journalism and advertising schools in the country. The university trains students to serve as professionals in the Fourth Estate. The university’s student newspapers, whether on the main campus or the satellite campuses,
crucial training grounds for those professionals. Please don't let The Daily Collegian starve to death financially. Please restore university funding for this 136-year-old Penn State institution.
Logan White Stack
Computer Science 2006

49. **John Myers, Alumni** - Submitted written comment

De-funding the Daily Collegian;

Continuing to help fund the operation of the Daily Collegian should remain an important educational mission of PSU.

The university's mission states in part,

"We engage in collaborative activities with private sector, educational, and governmental partners worldwide to generate, integrate, apply, and disseminate knowledge that is valuable to society.

The Daily Collegian has been one such "partner" for over 130 years and was for me, as well as thousands of other graduates, one of the most important pieces of my personal education. Much of what made me a success in my first job after graduation, I learned from work at the Collegian. When I returned years later for my MBA, the Collegian was an important source of "knowledge that was valuable to (PSU and State College) society". After speaking with many current students, I learned that it remains so.

I urge you to find a way to restore funding to the Daily Collegian, if not as a regular budgeted item then perhaps by contracting to purchase a significant amount of paid advertising funded from the University's marketing budget.

50. **Robert Yuskavage, Alumni** – Submitted written comment

University funding of The Collegian;

I would like to express my deep concern about the University’s decision to eliminate all funding for The Daily Collegian in the near future. I was a senior reporter for the Collegian in the early 1970’s, and my experience working on the student newspaper played a major role in my academic and professional development. Although I ultimately chose to become a professional economist, rather than a journalist, my work for the Collegian was instrumental in developing skills that aided me throughout my professional career. These skills include contacting sources, gathering information, interviewing participants and witnesses, and writing concise stories under short deadlines. For those colleagues who became professional journalists, these skills were vital for competing in the job market in their chosen profession. In my case, these skills contributed importantly to my performance as an economist.

Perhaps most importantly for the broader University and State College area communities, the Collegian provided key insights into events and developments that were simply not available elsewhere, even from competing news sources. All constituents in the Collegian’s coverage area—students, professors, staff, and local residents—were well served by the dedication and determination of the young Collegian
journalists. Defunding a vital, vibrant institution like the Collegian would be a major disservice to both the development of young professionals and the information needs of the local community.

51. Elizabeth Long Razzi, Alumni – Submitted written comment

Daily Collegian funding;

To the Penn State Trustees:

I was privileged to work for The Daily Collegian for four years, serving as editor in chief during the 1980-81 academic year. I urge the Board of Trustees to reconsider the decision to reduce and then discontinue funding student subscriptions to The Daily Collegian, endangering its ongoing operation.

I write this not out of sentiment, but fully aware of the challenges all news operations face. My career included work at Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine, The Washington Post, and Urban Land magazine, where I served as editor in chief for 10 years. At each publication, we were forced to keep up with changing technologies and audience habits. Innovate or die is the message for news operations, and it applies to Collegian as much as commercial publications.

Here’s why a viable Collegian is in the interest of student journalists, the student audience, and the University itself:

For Collegian staff: Journalism not an academic exercise. Student journalists need to exercise the crafts they are learning in the classroom. They also need to exercise the responsibilities of managing a real-life publication without the safety net of someone grading their work before it goes live. I still remember when University President John Oswald phoned me to politely take issue with something we had published in the Collegian. One cannot learn in a classroom such lessons about how journalistic work affects news sources and audiences.

For Penn State students: Amid the clutter of online chatter, people need to be discriminating about their news sources. Having access to a quality publication produced by fellow students who are readily available to hear their contributions, complaints, and corrections is important training for students as consumers of news. And access to independent news about Penn State is important for a fully informed student body, even if such news may at times be uncomfortable for the administration.

For the University: If Penn State is serious about offering a worthwhile journalism major, it is necessary to support the living laboratory of Collegian and to allow it to innovate to capture the attention of today’s student audience. Collegian encourages colloquy among Penn State students, faculty, and staff. A campus devoid of the Collegian would leave Penn State less competitive compared with colleges and universities that offer a robust student-produced news outlet. And backing away from a reputable student publication sends a terrible message to students looking for transparency from their University.

I understand that Penn State faces serious financial challenges, but I urge the Trustees to fully consider how reducing and then zeroing-out this budget line item would affect the product that is a Penn State
education.

Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth Long Razzi, Journalism/Political Science, 1981
Editor in Chief, The Daily Collegian, 1980-81

52. Robin Mockenhaupt, Alumni – Submitted written comment

Funding for the Collegian;

I am shocked and saddened that Penn State has decided to stop funding the Collegian. Local newspapers, including college newspapers, are closing and the impact is devastating to local communities. The impact is contributing to a weakening of democracy. As a Penn State student, some of my friends worked at the Collegian and got essential work experience as well as contributed to the larger University Park and State College community. Now as an alum, I implore you to restore funding to this vital community and student service, and find budget cuts elsewhere. It will be a sad day at Penn State when the administration stops supporting this local independent news media outlet.

53. Kay Stephens, Alumni – Submitted written comment

Collegian future funding;

As someone who works for a community newspaper, I can assure you that now is the wrong time to eliminate or reduce funding for the Collegian. The newspaper -- as a printed product -- remains in transition. But its printed content, as well as its online content, are valuable in all communities and often copied by other media and offered as their own. The Penn State students who write for and produce the Collegian need that valuable outlet to put their classroom skills to use. If you cut funding and interfere with that opportunity, your student journalists will head to other universities. -- Kay Stephens, Staff Writer, Altoona Mirror, Penn State Class of 1977

54. Valeria Bertani, Alumni – Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

Hello,

I am writing due to concerns I have around the university’s decision to reduce funding for The Daily Collegian. As an alumnus of the university and a former Collegian staff member, I can say with confidence that the journalistic work of the Collegian is critical to the Penn State community. I hope that the board can re-consider this decision.
Thank you,
Valeria

55. Alejandro Rodriguez Vanzetti, Alumni – Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations; Concerns about the university’s decision to stop funding The Collegian;

My years as a Diversity Reporter for the Collegian were critical to my journalism (and now legal) career. I had the opportunity to interview members of the LGBTQ community, civil rights leaders, and everyday students about their concerns and thoughts on important issues. My writing skills improved at a much quicker pace compared to my non-Collegian peers as a result. Reducing funding of this iconic Penn State institution would affect many up and coming journalists as they seek to excel and provide a voice for the Penn State student. Please consider the rich history that this newspaper carries before making this decision.

56. Pete Dougherty, Alumni – Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I understand that you have been inundated by concerns from alumni of The Daily Collegian about the severe cutbacks in funding for the student-run newspaper. Allow me to add my name to the list.

The journalism degree I earned at Penn State opened many doors in my career, but it was the experience working at a daily paper that jump-started my career. The newspaper business has changed a lot in the 44 years since I’ve graduated, but the importance of an independent voice has not. I would hate to see the next generation of journalists steered away from Penn State because the Collegian can't supply the framework to support these endeavors.

Pete Dougherty
Clifton Park, N.Y.
Albany Times Union (retired)
Class of 1979
Collegian sports editor, 1977-78

57. Leen Obeidat, Alumni – Submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

Please re-consider your decision to defund The Daily Collegian, the student-run newspaper. Student media is a vital part of the campus ecosystem as it informs the students on what's going on around them. Additionally, it creates a learning space for young journalists and business students who are trying to get a real-world work experience on campus.
The Daily Collegian was an integral part of my college experience and has shaped my career path for me. Without it, I wouldn't have been the same professional that I am today.

**58. Shannon Sweeley, Alumni – submitted written comment**

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

The Daily Collegian has been a pillar on Penn State's campus for over 100 years, and the fact that funding is even in question is appalling. As a 2016 alumna, I am extremely disappointed with the Board of Trustees's decision to stop funding one of the nation's top student-run newspapers. As a result of this, you WILL see declines in recruiting for journalism and related majors — a program that is already at risk due to the spread of misinformation and hate toward media outlets on a national (and international) scale. These students should feel supported on their own campus, where they're spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on their education. Instead, they're being treated as if their educations — and their futures — do not matter.

I came to Penn State — as opposed to Michigan, Indiana, or Maryland — because of the Daily Collegian. I would not be where I am if not for The Daily Collegian, and I refuse to be part of the Alumni Association or make any type of donation to the university unless it corrects its heinous actions. I am asked multiple times a year to speak to Penn State classes about my career and what got me here — and ALL of those conversations are centered around the Daily Collegian and the experiences I had as a reporter, editor, and ultimately, editor-in-chief.

A university thrives where freedom of information is allowed, where the administration is kept accountable for its actions, and where the entire Penn State community can stay up-to-date on the issues that matter most. The BOT should be embarrassed that this is even in question.

**59. Ben Goldman, Faculty – submitted written comment**

Comment on Collegian funding;

I’m writing to urge the Board to reconsider the proposed complete defunding of the Collegian. I am the University Archivist at Penn State, and there is perhaps no better resource documenting our history than the nearly 140 year history of Collegian newspapers. Students make our university great, and in these pages you can find the full breadth of student experience throughout most of Penn State’s history. The Collegian illustrates how our University has grown in stature and impact over the decades and it is a venue for displaying the President’s current strategic priorities and values in action. You can, for example, find countless examples of student success and achievement, or understand the many ways our university supports equity and belonging. Even in our digital age, the Collegian functions (symbolically and literally) as the voice of the students. I hope the University can find a way to continue supporting that voice. Thank you for considering this message of support.

**60. Christal Mockenhaupt, Alumni – submitted written comment**

Funding the student newspaper, The Collegian.
Democracy and freedom of expression are being threatened on so many fronts in American society today, I believe that the university should be setting an example, not only for the students, but also for the wider community, in providing a print outlet for individual voices to be heard and recognized. I urge you to protect, defend, and preserve this basic American right by continuing to fund The Collegian student newspaper.

61. R.J. Hufnagel, Alumni – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations; Daily Collegian funding;

Please restore funding for the student-run newspaper, the Daily Collegian. A few hundred thousand dollars to preserve and protect the Daily Collegian is virtually nothing in the vast millions that is the Penn State budget, and it is money well spent. I urge the board to reconsider the decision to cut funding for the Collegian. Journalism is critical to the survival of our democracy, and to the well-being of our country and its citizens. The teaching of journalism can't be done solely in a classroom. Students need real-world experience. The Collegian provides that and remains a critical learning tool for Penn State students. It should be receiving more support, not less.

62. Kevin Cirilli, Alumni – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I believe Penn State's consideration to remove/reduce funding from its iconic, flagship journalism brand The Daily Collegian to be ridiculous and counterproductive (and stupid).

Like thousands of others, I wouldn't have a career if it weren't for The Daily Collegian. Careers are launched in its storied pages and digital pixels -- both from the ones who helped chronicle the stories and those who were its subjects.

Penn State is a community rooted in our country's tradition of democracy. Freedom of speech must thrive on America's college campuses -- not be silenced.

The Daily Collegian in some iteration has been around since 1887 -- before the university had a football team or a women's volleyball team. We live in an era where news literacy and truth are under attack. Geopolitical bad actors like Russia and China are spreading disinformation and amplifying hate speech across America's higher-education institutions. Penn State should be investing in the truth -- not taking an axe to it.

This is a dangerous move, Penn State.

The Daily Collegian media brand is an asset to the university in many ways.

First: The Daily Collegian is a university asset because it is a student recruitment tool, it is an entrypoint for students interested in studying journalism or working on the business side of media. Furthermore,
it's an entrypoint for non-journalism applicants to learn more about the Penn State experience and ways to shape their academic experience.

Second: The Daily Collegian is a university asset for the current Penn State community, including all students, their parents, faculty, staff, administrators, and local residents. Look no further than the Covid-19 pandemic, where The Daily Collegian kept the community informed in a way that no other outlet could match because it is a trusted vessel by the community.

It is important to note that The Daily Collegian has long helped bring voice to underrepresented communities on-campus, including the LGBTQIA+ community. Why on earth would Penn State seek to divest from diversity?

Third: The Daily Collegian is a university asset because of its alumni network and reach. Collegian alum are invested in the success of the university. Furthermore, The Daily Collegian provides a way for alum to re-engage with their alma mater.

I am absolutely shocked that my alma mater would make such a reckless, short-sighted decision on an iconic national collegiate journalism brand -- particularly living in an era where hate speech and hate crimes are on the rise and bad actors are seeking to amplify hate.

This is something that one would expect in Russia or China -- not in the United States, where freedom of speech should be celebrated. Period.

Those are just some reasons The Daily Collegian has provided such consequential returns on investment to the university. The Collegian amplifies truth -- for those who often would not get heard. I join many others in urging Penn State administrators to reverse course.

63. Andrew Destin, Alumni – submitted written comment

Daily Collegian budget cut;

I am deeply saddened by the news of the Daily Collegian's university support being cut and ultimately ended altogether in the near future. I would not be where I am today as a journalist covering the Penguins and Pirates for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette if not for my hands-on experience at the Collegian. I strongly advise that you consider reversing this decision and showing your financial support for the Collegian, because that paper is more than just a student newspaper. It is at the core of what makes the College of Communications great. Without the Collegian operating to the best of its abilities, the College of Comm will not be able to do so. As a proud alum who wants nothing more than for students to have the same, if not better experiences than I had, nothing would bring me greater joy than to see the Collegian not only survive, but thrive for years to come with the university's backing.

64. Karen Carnabucci, Alumni – submitted written comment

Funding The Daily Collection;
I am extremely concerned about the proposal to stop funding The Daily Collegian. Back in 1969, when I was a high school student researching potential college options with the help of my guidance counselor, the Pennsylvania State University stood out for one reason and one reason only: It had a daily newspaper – reported, written and edited by students.

I wanted the journalism degree from Penn State, of course, but I knew that actual hands-on experience of working for a daily newspaper would give an incredible learning experience that journalism classes simply could not provide.

That proved to be true – working with daily deadlines, covering college and off-campus breaking news, and researching and writing articles gave me a big edge when I applied for a summer internship with my hometown newspaper, which rehired me every summer prior to graduation. My articles for The Daily Collegian provided the opportunity for me to be recognized with various levels of awards. And I felt like I took the best prize, a full-time job offer with the well-respected Intelligencer Journal in Lancaster, Pa., before I graduated.

Penn State is more than football, beer drinking, sororities and fraternities. Those of us who are “writerly” – and even a little nerdy! – need places to fit. The Daily Collegian gave me an important place in a large university, supporting me in making lifelong friends, huge learning and a wonderful Penn State experience.

Trustees, please fund The Daily Collegian.

65. Michael Weinreb, Alumni – submitted written comment

Daily Collegian funding;

I wanted to express my dismay and frustration at your decision to completely cut funding for the Daily Collegian. As a writer and journalist, I would literally not have the career I do today without the Collegian; it was the most important part of my time at Penn State, and while I think there could be a path toward independence, the university should not cut off that money before it has a plan to ensure its survival. In the meantime, I know that myself and hundreds (if not thousands) of other alums will be altering our donations and estate plans to redirect money from the university and straight to the Collegian itself. This will cost you in the long run, and is antithetical to the educational experience at Penn State, and you need to fix it. Thank you.

Michael Weinreb

66. Kay Shanahan, Alumni – submitted written comment

Need to continue budget for publication of student newspaper I;

From alum, class of ’70. Please continue publication of student newspaper! This is a benefit to all 28,000 PSU students, faculty, journalism students and is a PSU treasure. My late brother’s father in law, the late Jerome Weinstein, editor Centre Daily Times, will roll over in
his grave were the Daily Collegian to be gone. My late brother & '65 PSU grad-journalism- started his journalism career with Daily Collegian, worked for AP and McClatchy Newspapers for 30 years, all starting at PSU. Please don't support the demise if print journalism! Find the $ to fund it!

67. Dana DiFilippo, Alumni – submitted written comment

Collegian funding;

Please don't refund The Collegian! I owe my career to it!

68. Carl DiOrio, Alumni – submitted written comment

Funding for The Daily Collegian;

I am requesting that the Board of Trustees continue to financially support The Daily Collegian and rescind action to eliminate the newspaper’s funding in 2 years. I am David VanHorn, a State College native and former reporter, copy editor, and news editor for the Collegian (1977-1980). My time at the Collegian led to my career as a professional writer, first as a reporter for 20 years, followed by more than 20 years in health care communications. I took the same path as my father, George, who wrote for the University of Wisconsin student newspaper after World War II and worked in agricultural communications, including a 29-year career as an editor for the College of Agriculture at Penn State.

As you can see from my family’s story, student journalism is a job creator. Student journalism helps build lifelong careers in news reporting and editing, communications, advertising, and other related fields. One of the goals of any university is to help students find a purpose that satisfies their needs and contributes to the good of society. The Collegian has fulfilled that mission for more than 100 years with the university’s financial support. Eliminating funding for the Collegian would severely jeopardize Penn State’s mission to prepare students for meaningful careers.

I recognize that Penn State is facing a significant budget deficit, but the reaction to this financial shortfall regarding funding for the Collegian seems unnecessarily radical. Any organization, public or private, would be hard pressed to handle such a steep loss of funding over a short period of time. This funding cut is demoralizing to the newspaper’s staff, its alumni, supporters, and the community.

The nonprofit Collegian needs time, and help from the university, to create a business plan to continue operating while simultaneously securing financial support independent of the university. I ask the Board of Trustees not only to continue funding the Collegian during this period, but to lend its expertise and resources to help the newspaper survive and establish new financial resources.

69. David VanHorn, Alumni – submitted written comment

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70. Jade Campos, Alumni – submitted written comment

Daily Collegian funding;

I am a 2022 graduate of Penn State and the 2021-2022 editor-in-chief of The Daily Collegian. I was also the College of Communications overall student marshal for spring 2022. I love Penn State and cherish every memory I had at the university, but I am continuously disappointed in decisions made by administration that do not appear to have the students’ best interests in mind. The latest decision to defund The Daily Collegian is just one example of those decisions.

As a new student who once relied on a robust student media outlet to learn about my new home, The Daily Collegian delivered every day. As a young journalism student, I looked up to the fierce student reporters at the Collegian and hoped to be just as good as them one day. I have nothing but kind words to say about the College of Comm. and every professor there — I have made incredible connections and learned tremendously from them, lessons I still use today. However, I would not be half the journalist I am today without the hours spent reporting and learning from The Daily Collegian.

These are likely words trustees hear regularly — The Daily Collegian taught them more than their classes did. It is the truth, and it rings true as a very recent graduate. I immediately got a job after graduating at a renowned local newspaper in Lancaster, PA and I have what I would consider my dream job, thanks incredibly to The Daily Collegian. To this day, my editors boast about how proud they are to have a former Collegian EIC on staff. My colleagues always refer back to The Daily Collegian when referencing
my impressive educational background.

It is The Daily Collegian that people — whether Penn State grads or not — think of when they hear Penn State journalism, not the College of Communications or any other student media outlet. The Daily Collegian.

71. Ramit Plushnick-Masti, Alumni – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

At a time when democracy is under threat and the need for a vibrant, accurate, robust and local media is critical your proposal to halt monetary support for The Daily Collegian is not only an exhibit of poor judgment but frankly an embarrassment. As a proud Penn State alum who had a successful 20-year career in journalism before becoming a communications professional, I owe that success to my years at the Collegian. And I know I am not alone. The Collegian has long been an award-winning springboard and training ground for some of the nation’s best journalists and a reason for students to choose Penn State over other competing universities. Don’t turn your back now on the 4th estate, that watchdog of democracy that is so needed now. Pay for the subscription to train future journalists and create a generation of engaged, news savvy individuals.

72. Sally Kuzemchak, Alumni – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I’m a Penn State alum, class of 1994, and I am writing to strongly urge you to restore funding to the Daily Collegian. My three years working at the Collegian as a student were pivotal in shaping me as a person, as a thinker, and as a journalist. I built skills, confidence, and lifelong friendships. I have no doubt that my time at the Collegian was central in my current career as a successful freelance writer. This period in our country of rampant disinformation is not a time to cut funding for journalism. We need truth (and truth-seekers) more than ever. The Daily Collegian is a Penn State institution, and it would be a tragedy if it were left to fade away. Thank you for your consideration.

73. Stephanie Sprenkle, Alumni – submitted written comment

Cessation of funding to Daily Collegian;

As a Penn State alumni and Daily Collegian alumni, I am extremely disheartened and disappointed in how the University has decided to basically stop the Daily Collegian from functioning. The student paper is a proven training ground in the areas of journalism and business management, given students the opportunity to get real world learning. It is an invaluable experience that enhances education. The lessons I learned from my time there are lessons that I have applied to my current career as an attorney. My days at the Collegian were very special—from covering the faculty senate or searching for President Thomas on campus because I needed a quote for a story, I learned to think on my feet, become a creative problem solver, and develop leadership skills. I think I learned more working there (and it is
work) than going to some of my classes. To destroy the paper truly takes away from the academics at Penn State.

74. Julia Mone, Alumni – submitted written comment

Funding cuts for The Daily Collegian;

My name is Julia Mone, graduate of the class of 2012 and a former Daily Collegian - Business Division manager. I’m writing to express my deep dismay & disgust at The Board of Trustees' decision to cut funding for the Daily Collegian.

As an independent and student-led paper, this institution has been doing unbelievably important (and award-winning!) work for over a CENTURY, while molding generations of journalists, editors, designers, advertising execs, and marketers (among others). Any university with a journalism program worth its salt should be safeguarding programs and institutions like the Collegian, especially in the current climate we find ourselves in where investigative journalism is under attack and the erosion of public trust in media is at an all time high.

The fact that the University is still touting the Collegian to new and prospective Communications students shows that it's something the school clearly finds valuable and important (as they should! It's one of the top student-run papers in the United States!). For you Board members to completely knee-cap it -- for, let's be honest, a PALTRY sum of money all things considered -- is disgraceful and destroys any credibility this Board once had to make the right decisions for this University and its students.

An independent and free press is one of the cornerstones of a healthy and functioning democracy. By defunding The Daily Collegian, the Board is proclaiming that Penn State doesn't find this a worthy of defending. Not only that, you are dismantling an essential part of this school's fabric & history: an organization that has been a watchdog for students and residents of State College alike; one which has both held the administration's feet to the fire on things like rising tuition costs, professorial misconduct, and athletic scandals, and been a trusted resource for community events, student life, and borough news.

It's not too late -- you can still do the right thing. I implore you to continue to fund The Daily Collegian to ensure that the students at this school continue to have access to a free and independent newspaper, and that future generations of journalists have the opportunity to train and develop at one of the top student papers in the country.

75. Piper Jackson-Sevy, Friend of the Daily Collegian – submitted written comment

Daily Collegian funding;

Hello, I’m very concerned to hear about the uncertain future of the Daily Collegian. Student media plays a vital role in a thriving campus ecosystem and is an incredible learning lab for students. I hope the DC’s funding will be secured for many years to come.
76. Angelo Zito, Alumni – submitted written comment

Reconsider defunding the Daily Collegian;

To the BoT: I write as an alum of Penn State (1974) to urge you to continue to fund the Daily Collegian. Born and raised in Johnstown PA, I loved my years at PSU where I majored in Journalism and East Asian Studies. I did two things at school--learned Chinese and worked for nearly 3 years at the Daily Collegian, where I rose to become Feature Editor in my senior year. That newspaper experience was utterly formative for me. I went on to get a PhD in East Asian Studies (U Chicago 89), and teach at NYU in Anthropology and Religious Studies. But my love of journalism and media helped me to found the Center for Religion and Media at NYU in 2003. Our monthly online magazine therevealer.org won the top award last year from the Religion News Association. I founded a joint MA program in Religion and Media here at NYU. The Collegian is even older than football at Penn State and deserves financial support. I hope you will reconsider this decision for the sake of the wonderful students who will benefit in the future from the experience of putting out the news as team, honing their own writing skills along the way.

77. Andrew Kalmowitz, Alumni – submitted written comment

The Daily Collegian;

What the University is doing to the Collegian is beyond awful. Hundreds of students every year depend on the Collegian to teach them About the ins and outs of the journalism industry. Penn State was good to me, but I would be nowhere without TDC. I hope this harmful decision is reversed by PSU.

78. Penn Hoeltzel, Alumni – submitted written comment

Funding for Collegian;

Journalism is even more important today, with so much misinformation spread so easily. A college newspaper is as important as other news sources and provides excellent training for future journalists. The Collegian is something Penn State can be proud of. Please continue to fund it!

79. Janet Bailey, Alumni – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations; Proposed Approval of Granting of Trustee Emeritus Status;

Please allow me to respectfully address the Board of Trustees regarding funding for the Collegian. To cut the funding by half for 23/24 and eliminate funding entirely for 24/25 seems to be a reversal of prior commitments. Does Penn State not recognize the national importance of a free press and professionally trained journalists when unreliable news sources are everywhere? Does Penn State not recognize the
value of providing tangible support for students who can shape newspapers of the future? If you need a striking example of the importance of a student newspaper, look to University of North Carolina’s student newspaper reporting that followed the tragic campus murder last week. Please reconsider the proposed cuts and instead support Penn State’s student newspaper. Our future needs the voices that are learning their craft at the Collegian.

80. Dana O’Neil, Alumni – submitted written comment

Cutting of Collegian funding;

I am writing to express my displeasure at the university’s decision to cut funding to the Daily Collegian. My four years at the Collegian prepared me for my career, and put me on a path that now, 30 years in, has proven to be a rather successful journalism career. But more, how can a university brag about its stellar communications school without providing the necessary funding to give students real-world experience? The Collegian is an essential piece of the communications fabric, and to cut off funding while lauding the commitment to the Bellisario College is more than reprehensible; it’s downright fraudulent.

81. Noah Kingley, Concerned student journalist – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

Student journalism is important, don’t cut funding for the Daily Collegian

82. Jackson Hoff, hater – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

So, you saw everything that happened at Northwestern and decided that a student newspaper wasn't worth funding? Seems smart. Surely there's no situation in which you would have someone more powerful than the administration — like a football coach — enabling & hiding heinous crimes for decades and would need someone to whistleblow all that mess. No sirree, not here in State College.

83. Wendy Kibler, Alumni – submitted written comment

cessation of funding to the Daily Collegian;

As a former staff writer for the Daily Collegian (English, 1982), I urge President Bendapudi to reverse her decision to defund this student paper. Students pursuing degrees in journalism, English, and professional photography have an opportunity to gain experience beyond the classroom. Why would you take that away? In addition, student newspapers sometimes break stories before national papers do (i.e., The Daily Northwestern's story on hazing). Why would you take that opportunity away? Journalism is under fire by those who want to keep facts hidden and democracy at bay. Why would you contribute to that? The motto of The Washington Post is "Democracy dies in darkness." It appears that is Penn State's motto as well.
84. Cole Martin, Michigan Student – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

Student journalism is great! Fund the paper!

85. Steve Halvonik, Alumni – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

I'm writing to beseech the board to continue financial support for the Collegian. I enjoyed a successful and satisfying career in communications, first as a journalist and then as a public relations officer, and I owe everything the Collegian. It provided me an opportunity to compile a portfolio of published articles that helped me secure a newspaper job BEFORE I graduated. The Collegian has always had a reputation for journalistic excellence. Why the university would want to sever ties with an organization that only burnishes its own image is beyond me. Surely, in a multibillion-dollar annual budget, Penn State can find several hundred-thousand dollars for the Collegian. It's a matter of commitment, not resources. I will continue to support the School of Communications and the Collegian, because I understand their value. I challenge you to do the same.

86. Megan Smith, Supporter – submitted written comment

Student newspaper funding;

Do not pull funding from the student newspaper. It is essential for the spread of news, student involvement in their community, and development of writing. Journalism is vital. Do not do this to students. It is cruel and unnecessary. Find funding somewhere, you have it. Sincerely, a supporter from The Michigan Daily.

87. Kerry Ford-Tomkowitz, Alumni – submitted written comment

Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

Please reconsider the decision to withdraw funding for The Daily Collegian.

More than a century of history has demonstrated that The Daily Collegian provides vital, hands-on experience and important resume boost for future professional communicators. Moreover, The Daily Collegian provides a valuable supplement to classroom education. There's no need to take my word for it -- the pages of the New York Times, Associated Press and hundreds of other quality news sources are peppered with the bylines of The Daily Collegian's alumni.

With the recent elevation of the Bellisario School of Communications, Penn State is enjoying heightened
visibility as a world-class institution for communications education. That credibility will be severely tainted if The Daily Collegian is left to flounder. Communications is not a theoretical study, it’s a practicum. What aspiring communications student would commit to a school that does not offer the full complement of educational experiences?

Finally, please consider the optics of removing the fourth estate from campus. The world watched – and remembers – the Sandusky scandal. Unfortunately, that crisis continues to haunt our beloved PSU. Removing a reliable watchdog from campus calls into question the University’s willingness to be transparent and honest.

While I understand the grave financial concerns facing the Board, please do not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. Refusal to support The Daily Collegian may very well impact future applications to the Bellisario School of Communications while also negatively impacting overall brand trust of Penn State as an institution.

I trust this missive will be just one of many from passionate alumni of The Daily Collegian. As you read them all, please note the impressive writing abilities of the senders. Those skills were honed and polished through life-changing experiences at The Daily Collegian. Please do not steal that opportunity from future generations of Penn State Communications students.

For The Glory,

Kerry Ford-Tomkowitz
Journalism, 1985

88. Eric Leisure, Alumni – submitted written comment

Daily Collegian Funding;

As an alumni of both Penn State and the Daily Collegian I find it incredibly disheartening that a university which considers itself a top flight academic institution would cast aside a crucial piece of the academic experience for thousands of students — past, present, and future. Without my time at the Collegian I wouldn’t have returned to State College just a few years later as a credentialed member of the media tasked with covering our basketball program. I implore you to reconsider the proposed cuts in funding to one of the nations top student-run publications.

89. Andrew Beierle, Alumni – submitted written comment

Defunding of the Daily Collegian;

I am a 1973 Pen State graduate with a degree in journalism, who served as managing editor of the Daily Collegian (1972-’73) and who graduated with honors (Omicron Delta Kappa [men's leadership honorary] and Kappa Tau Alpha [journalism honorary]). I was for four years the recipient of the Howard J. Lamade Memorial Scholarship. I specifically chose Penn State for its strong journalism program. The Daily Collegian was a key component of my Penn State education. Indeed it was the very core of my journalism experience, more valuable than any single class or individual faculty member. Upon
graduating, I immediately took a job as a reporter for the Orlando Sentinel, where I served as a general assignment reporter, as the paper’s first dedicated medical/science writer, and as an assistant city editor (1973-'77). From 1977 until 1980, I served as the medical/science writer for the Brown University News Bureau. And from 1980 until my retirement in 2006, I served as editor of Emory Magazine and executive director of University Periodicals at Emory University. My entire career was made possible by my experiences at Penn State and in particular at the Daily Collegian.

That the University now plans to strip the Daily Collegian of its funding is reprehensible. That they are doing so at a time in the life of this nation when a strong and responsible press is crucial is unspeakable. And that they are doing so at the same time as they are proceeding with a $700 million renovation of Beaver Stadium is obscene.

Having already been alienated from the University by the unspeakable Jerry Sandusky scandal and its regrettable financial impact on the University, I am now irrevocably riven from my alma mater in perpetuity. Shame on you.

90. Rebecca Stumpf, Alumni – submitted written comment
Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations for Operations;

Cutting the budget appropriation for the Daily Collegian is an embarrassment. Just this week I read a trustee’s post about PSU academic ratings declining. How does it help to remove one of the university’s best educational tools? Be it reporting, web design or sales, thousands of alumni are successful today because of the Collegian.

91. Jeremy Drey, Alumni – submitted written comment
Program funding;

Many of us remember being underfunded college students and scraping by while toiling away at our studies and extracurriculars. Much of my time was spent in the former James Building, past home of The Daily Collegian. I spent many late nights in that space gaining an immense amount of real-world experience that I wouldn’t trade for anything.

I graduated into the photojournalism world and found a market where I was definitely green, but supported by real-world knowledge that helped me get my first job.

Penn State is all about learning. But more than any classroom experience, I gained skills at the Collegian that I employ to this day in the way I manage priorities, people and my photography.

I call for the Board of Trustees and President Neeli Bendapudi to restore financial support to a program that is nearly a 365-day internship. This type of experience should be a priority for every college that would also support an informed student body.

Great journalism makes for a great society. And backing those that will bear the torch is something that will benefit us all.
92. Connor Earegood, Concerned Citizen – submitted written comment

Daily Collegian budget slash;

I understand that investing in the development of journalists might not seem to your Board like a worthwhile expense, but the lack of education in journalism is exactly why our country’s political system is in tatters. The Daily Collegian allows students to learn journalism through practice, and slashing its budget denies students these enriching and unforgettable experiences. Your decision harms the future of the university you were elected to protect and improve. Don’t forget your duty.

93. Remi Williamson, Friend – submitted written comment

Cutting the Collegian's budget ;

Student journalism and free press are some of the most important things a university can provide. Teaching the next generation to be objective and report on the world around us is an invaluable skill. Cutting the Collegian's budget will greatly hinder that mission.

94. Eli Trese, Concerned student journalist – submitted written comment

Cutting funding to student journalism;

I am a student at the University of Michigan. I am also a part of our student-run newspaper, the Michigan Daily. Student journalism is an important aspect of almost every college and university, and should continue to be as such. On behalf of my fellow student-journalists at UM and Penn State, I ask that you reconsider cutting funding to the Collegian.

95. Tim King, Alumni – submitted written comment

Collegian Funding;

As an alumnus of the Bellisario College and a former member of its Alumni Board, I write today to object in the most strenuous terms to plans to remove funding from The Daily Collegian beginning next academic year. The Daily Collegian remains one of the most successful learning labs connected to Penn State and is part of the lofty ratings garnered by the College for years. Its alumni are some of the most successful and celebrated to have called Penn State home. The present proposal to cut this valuable learning tool from its funding and threaten its very existence is, at best, careless and at worst an act of blind stupidity even when facing major budget shortages. The proposed cuts have, once again, brought negative press to Penn State garnering such outcries as a televised editorial from WTAE-TV in Pittsburgh pointing out the foolishness of the cuts. In a world where we are still paying a heavy price for the last board failure in the face of crisis in 2012, Penn State cannot afford more bad media coverage.
I urge this board to immediately and without condition scuttle this proposed cut and restore full funding to The Daily Collegian.

96. Kyle Hutchinson, Alumni – submitted written comment

The Daily Collegian;

Funding cut for the Collegian is horrendous. We’ve watched how the funding kept decreasing, and now it’s just gone in the near future? We’d like to hear some reasoning. So many students rely on the Collegian, not only for straightforward news, which Penn State News hardly provides, but also for opportunities to propel them to future roles in media or leadership. I don’t work in media, I work in a law firm. When I was applying to jobs, nobody cared about the Penn State label, or my grades, they wanted writing samples from outside of school. I presented my Collegian articles and it made all the difference in the world. Without funding from Penn State, the Collegian will likely have to cut down in size dramatically, letting would be reporters and photographers go.

97. Jake Aferiat, Alumni – submitted written comment

Cutting the Funding for the Daily Collegian;

Hello there,

My name is Jake Aferiat and I'm a 2021 graduate of the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications and currently a high school sports reporter at NJ.com, New Jersey's largest and only statewide outlet.

Though my diploma says Penn State, really my education came from my four years spent on staff at The Daily Collegian where I was a wrestling reporter all four years, spent three semesters as a sports editor, as well as features and opinions editor.

I, and so many other journalism alums who have come through the university, got invaluable lessons from The Collegian, far more than we learned in class. I also got invaluable friendships and relationships from there as well.

And unlike STEM or business students, the Collegian is one of the few things someone can do on campus that prepares them for and mimics the real world of their profession right from freshman year.

Penn State and Bellisario purport to support student journalism, but this decision to cut funding is wholly antithetical to that. How can you support student journalism in one breath and then cut funding for one of the premiere incubators of talent in the industry?

The Collegian has produced some of the biggest names in journalism from Dana O'Neil to Tom Verducci to Jenny Vrentas to Jason Cherkis to Emily Kaplan and so many other high profile names. They all wouldn’t be where they are without the Collegian and wouldn’t it be a shame to lose talent like that because of this decision?
That's what will happen: the best and brightest young journalists will spurn Penn State for Northwestern or Mizzou or ASU or Syracuse and Penn State will be left in the dust. Meanwhile, you'll use the chance at ever producing those aforementioned names and I know plenty of people who won't send their kids to Penn State over this decision.

And then professors and the university/college will tout those big names as evidence of what's possible with a Penn State degree, neglecting they were all Collegian-trained. Or, they may say "we have a lot of great clubs, like The Daily Collegian" and leave kids to find out for themselves that you've stripped it for parts. Either way, to be used as a pawn and some recruitment tool knowing that you cut funding to the very place that made that all possible is disingenuous and shameful.

I'll close with this: The Collegian is an institution at Penn State and does real, legitimate journalism on par with or surpassing that of professionals. It means a lot to a lot of people and is one of the finest incubators of student journalism anywhere.

The cost to keep it afloat is minimal and hardly noticeable and we're not asking for much. Just to stay afloat so we can keep telling stories. I think we deserve that.

Please reconsider this decision and be well,
Jake Aferiat