

*STANFORD UNIVERSITY*  
*STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-2087*



24 April, 2019

Dear President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell,

We, the undersigned faculty in Classics, DLCL, English, Music, Religious Studies, and American Studies, are concerned about the future of the Stanford University Press, since we understand that you are considering no longer supporting the subsidy that the Press receives, resulting in a serious diminution of the Press's resources and risking its future. We believe that faculty should have the opportunity to comment on this issue, perhaps through Senate, and we should support consultation with outside experts, who might be able to report on the press and its achievements, challenges, and opportunities. As Humanities professors, we believe that the institution is far richer for having its own internationally regarded press.

As our colleagues in Law have commented, university presses serve a vital need, publishing specialized and rigorous scholarship that, while vital to the academic mission, cannot hope to reach a large enough market to be profitable. Accordingly, almost all university presses operate at a loss, which is made up with either endowment income (both Harvard and Princeton have endowments of over \$100 million), journal income, fund raising or a subsidy from a central university. The small annual subsidy the Press receives pays dividends in the form of wide-ranging lists that showcase a variety of academic disciplines and, because of the Press's reputation for excellence and thoughtfulness, regularly compete for authors with much larger and more well-funded presses. Eliminating that subsidy will not only undermine an important venue for scholarship, but it also sends an unfortunate signal about Stanford's commitment to scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences—all fields of inquiry vital to any professional school with serious academic aspirations.

Yours,

Professor Elaine Treharne, English & CESTA  
Professor Patrick Philips, English  
Professor Kenneth Fields, English  
Professor Peggy Phelan, English  
Professor Roland Greene, English and Comparative Literature  
Professor Gavin Jones, English  
Professor Mark Algee-Hewitt, English  
Professor Mark McGurl, English  
Professor Blair Hoxby, English  
Professor Denise Gigante, English  
Professor Shelley Fisher Fishkin, English  
Professor Emeritus Rush Rehm, English  
Professor Paula Moya, English  
Professor Michele Elam, English  
Professor Dan Edelstein, French Studies

Professor Margaret Cohen, English and Comparative Literature  
Professor John Bender, English and Comparative Literature  
Professor Kathryn Starkey, German Studies  
Professor Giovanna Ceserani, Classics  
Professor Grant Parker, Classics  
Professor Michaela Bronstein, English  
Professor Mark Greif, English  
Professor Dan Edelstein, French Studies  
Professor Amir Eshel, German Studies and Comparative Literature  
Professor Lazar Fleishman, Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Professor Vince Barletta, Comparative Literature and Iberian and Latin American Cultures  
Professor David Palumbo-Liu, Comparative Literature  
Professor Laura Wittman, French and Italian Studies  
Professor Richard P. Martin, Classics  
Professor Adrian Daub, German Studies  
Professor Andrea Nightingale, Classics  
Professor Yuliya Ilchuk, Slavic Languages and Literature  
Professor José David Saldívar, Comparative Literature & CCSRE  
Professor Gregory (Grisha) Freidin, Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Professor Michael Penn, Religious Studies  
Professor Alice Staveley, English  
Professor James Fishkin, Communication  
Professor Elaine Fisher, Religious Studies  
Professor Brent Sockness, Religious Studies  
Professor Michael Shanks, Classics  
Professor Christopher B. Krebs, Classics  
Professor Michaela Mross, Religious Studies  
Professor Nancy Ruttenburg, English  
Professor Vaughan Rasberry, English  
Rabbi Professor Ariel Evan Mayse, Religious Studies  
Professor Charles Kronengold, Music  
Professor Jesse Rodin, Music  
Professor Patricia Alessandrini, Music and CCRMA  
Dr Herbert W. Myers, Music  
Dr Erik Ulman, Music  
Dr Hilton Obenzinger, American Studies  
Professor Fred Turner, Communication  
Professor Alexander Key, Arabic and Comparative Literature  
Dr William Mahrt, Music  
Professor Ge Wang, Music  
Elaine Bar-David, Music  
Stephen Harrison, Music  
Professor Tom Rossing, Music  
Professor Tom Grey, Music  
A.P. Martin, Music  
Professor Heather Hadlock, Music  
Professor Emeritus Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, German Studies and Comparative Literature