

April 25, 2019

Dear President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell,

We, the undersigned members of the faculty of the Graduate School of Education, write to express our concern about the announced plan to eliminate the modest base subsidy to the Stanford University Press. We believe this will cripple the press and that it sends the absolute wrong message about the commitment of the university in reasoned, public discourse. As you know, scholarship, teaching, learning, critical thought, and fact-based debate are under daily attack, and reducing Stanford's commitment to the press and authors seems like the wrong message from one of the world's intellectual centers.

University presses serve a vital need, disseminating scholarly work and communicating the results of academic research. They exist expressly in order to publish works that are not necessarily commercial. Accordingly, they operate by design at a loss, which is made up by a combination of endowment income (both Harvard and Princeton have endowments of over \$100 million), journal income, fundraising and subsidies from their universities. 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 better-funded presses. Eliminating the base subsidy will not only undermine an important venue for scholarship but will also send an extremely unfortunate signal about Stanford's commitment to scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences—all fields of inquiry vital to a world class university, as indeed is a strong university press.

We would also like to express our strong belief that any decision about drastic restructuring at the Press should be made only after full consultation and well-prepared discussion in the academic Senate, with a chance for all members of the university community to be heard. Moreover, we urge that any decision be based on a careful examination of the Press's operations by an external committee of experts with experience in academic publishing who can offer an assessment of the Stanford University Press and suggestions for improvement.

We hope you will reconsider any decision to eliminate the subsidy to Stanford University Press and urge you to, at the very least, present any such decision to the academic Senate for discussion to ensure you have a complete picture of the value of the Press to our campus and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ari Y Kelman
Woody Powell
Patricia Bromley
Francisco Ramirez
David Labaree

Larry Cuban
Eamonn Callan
Guadalupe Valdez
Mitchell Stevens
Nicole Ardoin
Jonathan Rosa
Eric Bettinger
Prasant Loyalka
Martin Carnoy
Adam Banks
Christine Min Wotipka
John Willensky
Jonathan Osborne