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Machen's track isn't clear

I was reading Harper's Magazine a few months ago and saw a full page ad for the University of Florida. This ad was part of the university's attempt to show people that it was serious about becoming one of the top research schools in the United States.

Perhaps, like me, part of the reason you decided to come to UF or that you decided to donate money to the university is that you were impressed by this admirable goal. If you are one of those people then you might wonder why, in some cases, the university (under President Machen) is doing exactly the opposite of what the advertisements seemed to be promising.

Recent cuts proposed by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will see the research abilities of departments like English, philosophy and mathematics almost completely stifled. Teachers will have less time for research, new teachers won't be brought in to replace retiring ones and funding for graduate students will be cut.

So the question I have (and I urge you to have as well) is the following:

Dear President Machen, until you save the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, you seem to be behaving inconsistently and we would like to know what you plan to do about it. Your words are saying one thing, but your actions are saying another - and one of them is speaking a lot louder. Which should we be listening to?

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