

UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

November 4, 2015

Board of Curators
President Tim Wolfe

To the Board and President Wolfe:

We, the faculty of the English Department, respectfully submit this vote of no confidence in the leadership of Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. A department vote on November 3, 2015 resulted in 26 votes of no confidence, 0 votes of confidence, and 2 abstentions. While we recognize Chancellor Loftin's service, his twenty-one month tenure has been marked by dereliction of duty in maintaining the quality and reputation of graduate education, violations of the bedrock principle of shared governance, and failure to defend the University's educational mission against outside political pressure. Campus morale among faculty, staff, and students is at a low point. The campus climate is not one in which all members of the community feel included and respected. Because of these failures of leadership, we believe the best course of action is to find a new Chancellor who will be better equipped to repair the damage done to our graduate programs, adhere to the principle and practice of shared governance, and defend academic freedom at the flagship campus of the public university serving the citizens of Missouri.

Sincerely,



Samuel Cohen, Associate Professor, on behalf of the Department

