From: Gross, Sarah Corinne
To: University Governance
Subject: VAE Discontinuance
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:30:56 PM

I am faculty in the ceramics area in the Department of Visual Art. I am writing to argue that Visual Art Education must continue at the University of Kansas. VAE has been singled out for discontinuation without taking into consideration the interconnectedness of this program within our department, or how incredibly successful it has been at producing graduates who enrich our state and educate our children.

Among the areas of the Visual Art Department, VAE is in fact quite low-cost, especially considering comparative enrollment numbers. Cutting VAE will result not in cost savings, but an overall loss in student enrollment. Prospective students and their parents are excited about an department that offers a career-oriented track in addition to a traditional arts degree. We have already had to turn potential VAE students away.

This move will be proven to be short-sighted, and part of an ongoing pattern of defunding the arts. My colleagues within the department are bereft at the thought of losing this esteemed program. We want to believe that our colleagues at KU value the arts. Art teachers with the kind of preparation KU currently provides are already in low supply. The children of this state and region need and deserve an ongoing Visual Art Education program at KU.

Best,
Sarah Gross
Associate Professor of Visual Art