

PRESS RELEASE

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Austin Polish Society
Contact: Mary Gawron
Email: mmwgawron@gmail.com

Polish Studies at UT in Jeopardy Due to Budget Cuts Austin Polish Society Takes Action

Austin Polish Society (APS), a local non-profit organization that focuses on furthering knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, language, arts, current affairs, and local events through cultural activities, classes, seminars, is very concerned about budget cuts affecting Polish Studies program at UT. At this time, the APS is considering several strategies to save Polish Studies at the University of Texas, Austin Center for Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES). The University of Texas decided to cut funding to the CREEES Department – as a result, Polish Studies at the University of Texas are in jeopardy and may be cancelled. APS is very concerned about this situation and is reaching out to Polonia and the global community to find ideas, support, and resources to keep the 27-year-old Polish Studies program alive at UT. APS seeks 1) immediate funding to maintain the Polish Studies program for 2012 and 2) long-term funding to secure the program in the future.

Globalization is here to stay. Knowledge of other cultures and languages connects us economically and furthers cooperation and growth. Poland has long been a staunch US ally and is now one of the most economically sound countries in Europe and home to many US businesses. APS calls on its members, Polonia, and friends of Polonia, to get involved to help save the Polish Studies Program. APS is organizing a petition, a letter writing campaign to the University, the creation of an endowment for Polish Language studies at UT, and a fund raising campaign to save Polish Studies at UT.

Austin Polish Society is seeking volunteers that can bring forth their ideas, contacts, and resources to join the effort to save Polish studies at UT.