



University of Pittsburgh

School of Law

Center for International Legal Education

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Ann E. Cudd, Provost
Kathleen Blee, Dean, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

RE: English Language Institute

Dear Provost Cudd and Dean Blee,

I write to express my concern with the recent announcement that the University of Pittsburgh English Language Institute (ELI) will be closed at the end of this academic year. I hope very much that this decision is not final and may yet be reversed.

I want to begin by noting the general value of ELI beyond its home in the School of Arts & Sciences and, in particular, to the Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and the School of Law. I fear that, while we claim both to be a *university*, and to be an institution that has a strong commitment to global education, decisions made in siloed profit centers have a more general impact that results in the dilution of the quality of educational programs across the University of Pittsburgh.

ELI has been a wonderful partner to the School of Law and CILE in particular. CILE administers the LL.M. and S.J.D. degree programs that are targeted at international students. ELI has consistently prepared students to have the language skills necessary to participate in both of these degree programs. In this process, they have been a clear "value-added" component of the University for us. I believe they have played an under-recognized role in supporting international student recruitment to the University of Pittsburgh and thus to the global reputation of the University. They have also consistently been willing to partner in efforts to create programs designed to enhance the global reputation of the University of Pittsburgh and to attract international students.

ELI clearly is the type of program that was more heavily impacted by restrictions during COVID than is the case with some other units of the University. I do find it troubling that a profit-center approach to units that provide value across the University often tends to result in the absence of programs at the University of Pittsburgh that are valued at other universities with a global outlook and presence. While I have no empirical evidence regarding similar language programs at other universities, CILE's cooperation over the years with ELI clearly leads me to

believe that ELI has value across the University and serves to enhance both the effectiveness of international programs generally and the global reputation of the University of Pittsburgh. I also hope that ELI might be allowed to demonstrate its potential to move to a post-COVID environment in a way that will allow a return to budgetary stability – even on a siloed, profit-center model.

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss how the proposed elimination of ELI affects other units of the University, including CILE, and hope that it might be possible still to realize the value of ELI to the University as a whole and to keep it open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Brand', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ronald A. Brand

cc: Amy Wildermuth, Dean, School of Law
Ariel C. Armony, Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs and Director of UCIS
Charles Kotuby, Executive Director, CILE
Rob Mucklo, Associate Director, ELI