

On February 5, President Muma and Provost Lefever sent an email titled, "Enrollment is everyone's responsibility." While I don't take issue with the idea, I do take issue in practice. Please let me explain.

The letter notes that we are experiencing declines in enrollment among graduate students that will incur a \$2M shortfall. This decline is related to enrollment particularly from the "bubble" in computer science, who admitted 900 under-qualified students in Fall 2022. Due to faculty members leaving the CS department in advance of that semester, the department of mathematics took on teaching courses in algorithms. The students in those courses, in large part, did not have formal background in computer science -- they both lacked any mathematical skills for graduate work in CS and practical skills in programming for the program. Their solution, in large part, was cheating.

In Fall 2023, Kyle Wilson, Director Student Conduct and Community Standards reported to the Senate the number of academic integrity cases that arose to his office -- 243 graduate students (68% of cases) were submitted. Nearly all of these are within the college of engineering (computer science), including 186 *from one course*.

When cheating was not enough, students resorted to harassment. Three faculty have reported instances of five or more students coming to their offices demanding changes to their grades, and I have personally observed it happening to another faculty member. Our department has had to make new policies surrounding these courses, directing any meeting with more than two students be handled in the main math office in order to protect our faculty.

If harassing faculty is not enough, one of the undergraduate TAs was accosted at Dillons in Fall 2022, by students demanding a change to the way their papers were marked.

Enrollment is everyone's responsibility. But it is important that we responsibly enroll students. I value Wichita State as a vital driver to the city, state, and nation. And I support WSU to be a leader in engineering in the world. But I don't want us to be a cash-vacuum for under-prepared, dishonest, and bullying people.

I would rather see \$2M budget cuts than admit their likes again.