

Early in this semester President Steven Standifird charged six members of the University Senate with examining what departments and academic programs could be cut to assist with the \$13 million deficit. That [proposal can be found here](#). President Standifird stated in a University Senate meeting on October 16th that, “The President remains intent to follow their recommendations, provided they can make \$10 million in cuts.” As stated in the [University Senate meeting minutes here](#). For those that might not be aware, the President’s proposal for cuts is completely different from the faculty proposed cuts.

In that same meeting, the President also rejected a proposal to have upper administration take a 10% pay cut saying that he could not commit to anything like that at this time but is “still working through changes at the VP level.”

In 2020, Bradley University made approximately \$40 million worth of cuts across the university. These cuts came about when the university realized they were in a similar situation to the one they are in now. An article discussing [these cuts can be found here](#).

Following these 2020 cuts, was President Standifird’s first year as in his role, from May of 2020 to May of 2021, he made roughly \$350,000. In the following year, from May of 2021 to May of 2022, President Standifird’s salary saw a \$205,000 increase going from \$350,000 to \$555,000. In that same time frame, Vice President Christopher Ryenolds also saw a salary increase of nearly \$100,000. All of these salaries are available here on the University’s public 990 tax forms for [2021](#) and [2022](#).

These financial issues are not something that the University has just become aware of. Former CFO Sheryl Cox gave a presentation to the Student Senate two years ago about the risk of the \$48 million in bank debt that the University had at the time. This [quote and details can be found here](#).

“[The use of variable-rate bonds] is fine in these times right now where interest rates are low,” Cox said. “But...in two years when those interest rates pop up, my interest rate is gonna go up, and my budget may or may not be able to accommodate those interest rates.”

The communication across the university has also been inconsistent and difficult to track. In an [interview done with the Bradley Scout](#), the university newspaper, President Standifird said, “All of us at the beginning of this year looked at all areas to try to identify cost savings, we found some in athletics as well.” In an [interview](#) that Vice President Chris Ryenolds did with WCBU, when prompted about the budget cuts applicable to his department he said, “Until I am told anything or otherwise, I’m just going to keep my head down.” So the

communication from the President's office when compared to the Vice President of Athletics says two different things concerning cuts to the department.

The lack of clear communication and accountability from the administration is frustrating to see. **Do with this information what you will.**