

To Whom It May Concern:

The recent news that funding for the Veterinary Technology Program at Michigan State is under review and could be cut greatly disappoints the MSU CVM Class of 2013. The vast majority of 2013 veterinary students are strongly opposed to notion of suspending the vet tech program because it will have a profound impact on our education and for the veterinary profession alike. Although our careers have only just begun, and we have not had the honor to work with vet tech students as closely as the classes above us, our older peers have shared nothing but positive words about the vet tech students. On numerous accounts I have heard how DVM students have learned valuable knowledge and skills from the vet tech students during our educational collaboration during clinics. The Class of 2013 would like to safeguard our opportunity to interact and learn from the vet tech students by the time we advance to clinics, hence we urge you to reconsider your proposal to withdraw the vet tech program.

Not only will these actions be detrimental to our educational advance, but, more importantly, it will directly affect the quality of care that we will be able to provide to our patients. One of the primary oaths indoctrinating a veterinary student is to ensure adequate, competent, and safe treatment for our patients. The vet techs and the vet tech students at our hospital are an integral part in bestowing this meticulous and accurate care. This is especially important in a teaching hospital, where many of the doctors are not yet seasoned. For this reason it is incredibly valuable to have multiple sets of eyes on the patient in our care. The vet tech students contribute to the stellar reputation that the MSU DVM program maintains, and without their additional attentive watch of our patients we risk more mistakes, and ultimately we risk our superb track record.

Notwithstanding that the teaching hospital benefits from our vet tech students, the vet tech program should be protected because the veterinary profession outside of the MSU community depends on well-trained technicians. Michigan State technicians have a first-rate reputation and as a future clinic owner I will find comfort in hiring technicians that are well trained by such a highly regarded program. If the tech program was cut from MSU, these dependable individuals will not be available and everyone would suffer: the patient, the student, the MSU reputation, and the profession. We are proud of being graduates of the MSU program, and we also like to flaunt our vet tech counterparts. Please do not jeopardize this! We must find a way to keep our vet tech program for the benefit of all parties involved. Cutting this program is extremely detrimental. Despite the financial pinch, on the behalf of CVM Class of 2013 I urge you to consider our plea to keep this program! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Chelsea Grimes

MSU-CVM Class President of 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2011. I am writing out of great concern over the decision to cut the Veterinary Technician program as a budget consideration. As future veterinarians, we understand that veterinary technicians are a vital, necessary resource for the success of any practice, and the success of patient care. The relationships forged between veterinarians and technicians are invaluable, and extremely important in veterinary medicine.

The major advantage shared by both veterinary and veterinary technician students at MSU was that we spend a significant amount of time on clinical rotations together. So, not only are both populations of students learning clinical thinking, problem solving, techniques, etc, but we are also learning how to work together to be successful in patient. This program is successful, and has been consistently successful because it integrates so much clinical medicine as well as utilizes the resources available at the veterinary teaching hospital. It is the only accredited technician program in the state, and so it is a major loss for not only the university, but also the state.

I understand that, in these economic times, budget cuts must be made, and money must be made available. I will not attempt to pretend that I know what cuts would have been more reasonable, or what amount of money needed to be freed up, but I do know that the long-term effects of this cut will not be positive. The immediate effect on the budget is apparent, and appears to be the best option, but I truly believe this will hurt the reputation of this prestigious college and program.

I encourage you to reconsider the decision to cut this valuable program. I am not sure what other options you have available, but I do know that other scenarios were presented for budget cuts in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and I would encourage you to look at not only the fiscal effects of these propositions, but also the long-term, reputational and public effects of these decisions.

As my class prepares to begin the clinical phase of our education, I can tell you now that the loss of this program will reverberate for the rest of our time here at CVM, and will be felt by every class in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrew Woolcock, DVM Candidate
and the entire MSU CVM Class of 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you and speaking on behalf of the MSU CVM class of 2010. As a class, we are very much against the cutbacks that are planned for the Veterinary technician program at MSU. While we are aware of the recent financial difficulties regarding this program, we can argue that the teaching provided by the technicians that have graduated from here is invaluable to our own education. These technicians are training us every day, with a skill and training that has been cultivated right here at MSU.

Also, working with veterinary technician students has been an excellent way to begin practicing teamwork and time efficiency. Our understanding of one another improves greatly as we learn together under the same instructions and ideals. We are often humbled by technician student's skill and knowledge, and we feel secure in knowing that MSU is training them.

One would think that the purpose of a Veterinary School would be to teach and train the best Veterinarians it can, but it needs to do so much more than that. I guess I just don't see how cutting the veterinary technician program would help achieve the high standards that we have always held ourselves to. We need these technicians, and we need them to be held to the level of excellence that MSU provides. We must find a way to preserve this vitally important program, for the technicians who want the best training possible, and the future veterinarians who rely so heavily on them.

Best Regards,

David Emery
Michigan State University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Class of 2010, President

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterinary Technology Program Cut
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 1:39:21 PM

Sandra,

My name is Anna Machowicz and I am a student at Michigan State University. My major is currently veterinary technology, and I will be applying to the program this year. I have had a love for animals since I was very young, and MSU has always been my school of choice. Coming here for veterinary technology seemed like the perfect option until the program cut was proposed. If the program is in fact cut, I, like many others, will have to change my major and take a different route. While other universities do offer the program, my funding is strictly limited to in-state schooling. My options, then, are limited as well. I wish to continue my education at MSU, but without the program, I may have to look elsewhere for some of the schooling I desire. Vet techs are constantly in need, and I feel cutting the program will not lead to much benefit overall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Machowicz

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vet Tech Cut
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 2:40:28 PM

Dear Sandra Walther,
Hello, my name is Emily Mohler, and i'm an aspiring vet tech student at Michigan State University. Cutting the Veterinary Technology Program at Michigan State University will put me in a huge hole. All I have ever wanted to do is go to school to get my bachelors in Veterinary Technology, what will i do if this program gets cut? I have always wanted to do this since i was little, almost every summer throughout high school i was volunteering at the local vet clinic, working up to get hours so i could apply for vet tech school. Were all of those hours wasted now? I recently had a meeting with Doris Roberson to discuss my options, she said that the closest place to get my bachelors degree in vet tech was at Purdue, unless i settle for an associates at a community college. Being accepted into Michigan State with them knowing i had an interest in vet tech, they should have notified me that they were thinking about cutting the program. No warning was ever provided to me about this idea. I felt that once i was accepted, i could continue on with my dreams. Now i find out that if i want to pursue this i will have to go out of state and some how come up with the money to pay out of state tuition. If this program is cut will assistance financially be provided to those they are getting rid of their major? I am disappointed with the fact i was not told of this issue before i accepted acceptance to Michigan State, i could have saved money, time, and more if i were to start my dream career off at a different college that would have a vet tech program. My plan for the longest time was graduating from Michigan State with a bachelors in Vet Tech, please make it so that can still happen. I have higher standard for myself han going to a community college to do this. Please do all in your power to make sure the Vet tech program stays at state. I honestly don't know what else i would do. Not only is this issue effect me scholarly but emotionally as well, if i can't go though with this i feel like i would be letting down those that have always encouraged me to come to the best vet school around to pursue my dreams, and at most my grandma who i promised i would go though with my dreams. Please keep this program at Michigan State University. I appreciate you taking time out of your day to read this, it really means a lot to me and all the other aspiring vet techs here. Thank You again.

-Emily Mohler

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: vet tech program
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 2:43:08 PM

I am writing to ask you to please consider keeping the vet tech program active at MSU. Our daughter is just completing her first semester at MSU and is very happy there. Since she has been a young child, it has been her dream to attend MSU and go into the veterinary field. Our daughter, Emily Mohler, was active in 4-H for 9 years and attended Exploration Days at MSU 8 years. Spending so much time at MSU with her 4-H activities helped her decide that her future would be there. Emily also attended a summer veterinary camp on campus there the summer following her 8th grade year in school. Emily has always wanted to go into the veterinary field of study. During her junior year of high school, she completed a year long "less than class size" program through our local Vo-Tech center. During that year she spent half of each school day at Dr. Nancy Kelly's Veterinary Clinic learning everything about a veterinary business. That year of hands on experience confirmed her decision. She wanted to attend MSU to get her Vet Tech degree, and then possibly go on even further. Now, as she is finishing her first semester at MSU, she has learned that the program is in danger of being dropped. I am writing to ask you to please reconsider. This is a program that is very important to many people (and animals). Our daughter has been planning this career at MSU for many many years, and now that she has started, it could be taken away. I am sure there are many other students in the same situation as our Emily. Please keep the Vet Tech program alive at Michigan State University. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,

Ronda Mohler
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: veterinary technology program cut
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 2:57:54 PM

Hi, my name is Robin Schnabel and I am opposed to the veterinary technology program cut. I was extremely disappointed and worried to find out that this program may be cut from MSU. I have wanted to become a LVT since childhood and my goal all throughout highschool was to get into MSU so I could begin the coursework for the LVT program here at MSU. I have worked extremely hard in all of my classes and am applying for the veterinary technology program this year. The only reason I chose to come to MSU was for the veterinary program. Very few schools in michigan actually offer a bachelors degree for veterinary technology and I think it would be awful for the program to be cut because I am sure that there are many people like me who are extremely devoted towards the LVT program here at MSU. Without this program I would not have chosen to come to MSU and I would have attended a college near my home to save on housing. Financially, MSU was a horrible choice for me because I had to take out several student loans to cover the amount my financial aid did not cover. I am sure that many students like me would no longer chose to attend MSU if the veterinary technology program was cut. The only career choice I want is to become a LVT and with there being very few schools in michigan that offer the program, I think it would be a huge mistake to cut the program.

I hope my input helps persuade the board to keep the program.
sincerely, Robin Schnabel

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: vet tech letter
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 4:07:48 PM

hello,

my name is Sara Mardeusz and I am going to apply to the vet tech program. I came to MSU for the Veterinary Technology because it is the only college in the state of Michigan that has a four year degree. I come from lower middle class family and I am paying for college. I already have a hard time paying as it is and if it were to be cut, I would have to move to another college that has a four year degree. It would be more expensive for me and it would mean I have to get even more loans to pay for college, which will put me further into debt. Michigan State was my first college choice and I got in, I would hate to transfer to another college to get another degree. Michigan state is suppose to have an excellent vet program. It seems foolish to cut a program that Michigan State is well known for, it does not make sense. If the program is cut then I have wasted my time and money and it would not just be me, but other people too. Michigan State is well recognized for their Agriculture and Veterinary programs, why cut them? It makes me sad to hear the Veterinary technology program is going to be cut . I worked too hard to get into Michigan State, it would seem that I just wasted my time and money here. I want to continue working hard for what I want most and that is to get a four year degree and help animals.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: MSU Vet Tech Program
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 6:09:58 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kellye and I am a first year Vet Tech student here at MSU. As you can imagine, the news of cutting the Vet Tech program is very upsetting for me. I was shocked to hear that this program is being considered for elimination, considering it's nationally known reputation for its exceptional graduates. It breaks my heart to think that MSU may no longer have this program. All of the programs faculty dedicate themselves to this program and to their students. I have never seen or heard of a college program who cares so much about its students and gives their students so much personal attention like MSU's Vet Tech program. It's amazing how much these people care about us and what they do. This is one of the reasons why I chose to come here. Other reasons why I chose MSU over other colleges Vet Tech programs is its four year Bachelors degree option. No other college in MI offers that and that was important to me.

MSU's techs have a outstanding reputation. They are trained exceptionally well for their field and they know what they are doing. I wanted an exceptional education, the best I could get, so I came to MSU. No other college in MI can come close to offering what MSU can. I deserve the best education so I came to the place where I was going to get it. MSU's Vet Tech students put their hearts and souls into this program because its what we love. We work very hard to succeed and strive to meet the expectations of the program. In the end we graduate with the highest board scores and with the knowledge and training to better help animals and make a positive contribution to the Veterinary Medical Field.

If this program proceeds to be cut where are students going to go to get the education and training they need to be the best aid for Veterinarians? Cutting this program will be detrimental to MI veterinary practices and the Veterinary Medical field. There is a saying that explains how important Vet Techs are; " Behind every good veterinarian is a GREAT vet tech". That couldn't be more true. Vet's need great techs behind them to make them who they are. You can't be good or successful with out the proper preparation and knowledge behind you. MSU's vet techs give that to Veterinarians. So before cutting this amazing program I ask that you think twice. Do you really want to get rid of something that is so great at what it does? Something that has a nationally known, proven reputation? I thank you for taking your time to read my letter and I ask that this letter be provided to UCAP for their December 17th meeting.

-Kellye Nevel

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Opposition to proposed Vet Tech program cut
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 6:40:24 PM

Dear Sandra Walther:

I am a current MSU Veterinary Student and hope that the Vet Tech Program will not be cut. Please provide this letter to the University Committee on Academic Programs for their meeting on December 17th. I choose MSU CVM because of its great reputation and part of that reputation and experience is having both DVM and Tech students work together in clinics. In practice, working with the technicians is a vital part of career life. I do would not want to miss out on working with the Vet Tech students when I am in clinics and think that all veterinary students should go through that as part of their training. I know that MSU CVM is a great school and the Vet Tech Program is part of that greatness! The MSU Vet Tech program should not be one of the things that are cut due to budgetary concerns. I strongly oppose the proposed cut. Thank you.

Jane Na
MSU CVM Class of 2012

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter for proposed cuts on December 17th's Meeting
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 6:51:02 PM

My name is Chelsea Callow and I am a sophomore at MSU that is currently trying to obtain a bachelor's degree and then apply to the Vet Technology program this January. I decided to come to Michigan state originally to pursue a carrier in Veterinary Medicine because MSU is one of the top schools for this program, and the only Vet school in Michigan. I am also a resident of Michigan, and coming from a middle class family, out of state tuition was way out of my price range. Once at MSU I realized that Vet Technology suited my interests more than Veterinary medicine, and I was so grateful that MSU had the Vet Tech program so that I would not have to worry about transferring to a different college. I have also spoken with my previous employer and co-workers at MSU's Veterinary Clinic Pharmacy about my major change, and the fact that MSU wanted to cut the Vet Tech program. Our opinions were unanimous on whether or not MSU should keep this program. We believe that the students that graduate from MSU's Vet Tech program have alot more hands on training and skills, and are also able to adapt to the veterinary clinic environment better than graduates from other local Vet Tech colleges. The expectations for the Vet Tech program at MSU seem to be higher, which gives the students challenges to overcome and allows them to understand the hard work incorporated with Vet Technology to better prepare them for the real world. If this program is cut many students, like myself, will not be able to find appropriate programs for a major they wish to pursue. In conclusion I feel that the Vet Tech program at MSU will provide students with the best knowledge and skills to use after graduation, therefore, the program should remain open to MSU students.now and in the future.

Please take my thoughts in to consideration when deciding on cutting MSU's Veterinary Technology program

Thank you,
Chelsea Callow

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: For UCAP 12/17 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 10:16:52 PM

Mrs. Walther,

I am writing this letter so that it can be provided to the UCAP for their meeting on December 17th, 2009. I am writing this in regards to the proposal to cut the Veterinary Technology program at MSU.

I graduated from the Veterinary Technology program at MSU in 2005 with a bachelor degree. There are no other options in the area for a person to get a bachelor degree in the Veterinary Technology field other than the program at MSU. Having my bachelor degree allows me more options for my career - not only can I work in the clinic setting, but I have the option of going into the laboratory field, becoming a rep for food or drug companies, or working in research. These types of jobs require a bachelor degree, and without being able to get this degree at MSU, I would not be able to obtain these types of jobs. With the lack of jobs in this day and age, every advantage a person has to further qualify for a job is a huge benefit.

The way that the Veterinary Technology program at MSU is run is also a reason that I am so glad I chose to go through this program, and why I continue to refer future vet tech students to the program. It is a close knit group of people, and the teachers truly care about you, not only as a student, but as a person and a friend. By the end of my time at the program, I felt like we were a family. There is also no other program in the area that allows you to do rotations in a teaching hospital working next to some of the best doctors and veterinary technicians, as well as working alongside veterinary students. I feel that by working with the veterinary students, I was able to gain an appreciation of what they had to go through, and I believe that they did the same with us. This allows for these students to go out into the working field better able to work together as a team and understand each other well. I also was able to see a lot more things working in the teaching hospital than I could ever hope to learn doing an externship at an average clinic, as most veterinary technology students from other programs have to do. I was able to do rotations in specialized areas such as dermatology, large animal anesthesia, parasitology, orthopedics, and rehabilitation, among others. I was also able to focus an entire 3 weeks on one specific area of my field at a time, such as anesthesiology (where I performed the anesthesia for an open heart surgery - who gets to do that!), general medicine, large animal medicine, general surgery, etc. I feel that by getting hands-on experience one area at a time, I was able to see so much more and learn so much more just in 3 weeks than I would in 3 months in any other program's externship.

If the Veterinary Technology program at MSU is cut, it will be a huge loss to the veterinary community. So many great technicians and technologists come from that program, and start in the field already experienced and comfortable with their job. I can speak from experience as to the surprised comments that were made at my first job out of school as far as how much I already knew and that I was able to jump right in and do what other techs took years to be comfortable doing. I was able to place a central line at the first teaching seminar held at my new job when no one else there knew how, and I believe this was just a couple months into my new employment. While other programs do teach the same basic skills and knowledge as the MSU program, no other program sends out their graduates with so much experience, confidence, and hands-on learned knowledge as MSU's Veterinary Technology program. The veterinary community will definitely be negatively affected if this program is cut. While the economy is hurting, and I understand that cuts do need to be made for the university to survive, I hope that you can see that this is not the right kind of cut to make to affect all of our futures positively. There is no other program out there for veterinary technicians that can compare to MSU's program, and it would be a very big mistake to cut this program. Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I hope that I am able to portray to you just how important this program is with my experience both as a student in the program

and as a graduate in the working field. I hope that decisions can be made to achieve what the university needs, but also what the veterinary community needs by keeping this program running.

Thank you,

Michelle Wietecha Hale, LVT

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: provided to UCAP for their December 17th meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 12:14:54 AM

Hello,
I am Ashley Gonsler and am a veterinary technology major here at Michigan State University. I have always know I wanted to be in the veterinarian technology field. Last year when weighing my options for college, I told myself that if I was accepted into MSU, then I would pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian technician. I had many acceptance letters and scholarship money for other colleges but I still had my heart set on MSU. Finally, I received my letter of acceptance into MSU for a veterinarian technology major and I started visualizing my dreams coming true. I knew that if I was going to pursue this dream I had to go to the best school in Michigan for my field and there was no doubt that MSU was the best. Even though I will have a lot of debts in loans to pay off, I continue to keep my head up and visualize myself graduating from MSU with a degree in veterinarian technology and be able to get a good job because of where I graduated from. When I first heard of the possible cut of the program I was deeply saddened. People have said it was because you can go to community college and get the degree from there, but it's no where near the same. I have worked so hard to get where I am today and I refuse to get my degree at a community college not because they aren't legitimate, but because I believe that when pursuing a dream, one must be challenged and strive to do their best; the veterinary technology program at MSU is the best and will have much more weight in the job field than a community college. I am not sure what I will do if this program is cut because I can't afford out of state tuition to go to another school, like Purdue, with a great program. The main reason I am here MSU is to pursue my dream in veterinary technology. I ask you to please consider my situation and others who are in the same predicament as me before you cut the veterinary technology program. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ashley Gonsler

To Whom It May Concern:

There are many reasons I have chosen to come to MSU for the Veterinary Technology Program. MSU's Veterinary Technology Program is number 1 IN THE NATION. Veterinarians throughout my hometown (Kalamazoo) that I had contact with before beginning my education here at MSU, constantly told me that they would hire a graduate from this program in a heartbeat. Being a student of MSU as well as of the College of Veterinary Medicine has given me an amazing perspective of the educators here. It is inherently clear that the teachers of this program care so much more for their students, and that their students are ACTUALLY LEARNING the material, rather than just passing the exams, unlike many general university courses I have taken at MSU. Being a part of this program has completely changed my view of learning.

When the students were first told of the possibility of the cutting of our program, the response was of both great sadness and anger. Several students even began crying, even though our class was told we would still graduate. This program is something everyone involved feels very passionately about, we all love animals, we all love what we do, or what we aspire to do. It upsets me greatly to think that other students may not have the opportunity to have the experience that I have, with such a dedicated teaching staff. Losing the number one Veterinary Technology program in the nation would be a nightmare for our profession. This program means a great deal to everyone who is involved in any way, PLEASE don't take this away from us. If this program is cut, all of us will be broken hearted, however I would like you to know, you cannot break our spirits, we are hopeful, we are passionate, we love our future jobs, we love this program, we are willing to fight for it.

Thank you for your time,
Emily Philipp-Petrick

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vet Tech Program being cut
Date: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 9:46:02 PM

Dear University Committee on Academic Programs,

I am a freshman at MSU. I chose MSU because I heard it had a great veterinary program. When I got here my academic adviser convinced me to follow the veterinary technology program. If the vet tech program were to be cut then I do not think I will be able to continue to go to MSU. I will have to find another college with a veterinary technology program. I really hope it does not come to that because I really like MSU so far. I really want to finish my education at this college. Please do not cut this program.

Student and Vet Tech Major,
Jakob Lotz

Edward G. Foster, D.V.M., P.L.L.C.

316 Beech Street
Charlotte, MI 48813-1006

Home: 517-543-3041 Cell: 517-230-7998 Fax: 517-543-3041 email: ed@fosterdvm.com

11-23-2009

Dr. Christopher Brown,
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine,
MSU, E. Lansing, MI 48824

Dear Dean Brown:

I am writing in regard to the recent decision that has been proposed to the MSU Board of Trustees to discontinue the Veterinary Technician program at the CVM. It was very disappointing to me when I heard of this decision and it would be my hope that it isn't too late to reconsider this program's demise at the CVM and MSU.

The Veterinary Technician program at MSU has been one of the premier programs in the US and one of the reasons that I have always considered the CVM at MSU one of the top five programs in the US. To me, doing away with this program to balance your budget would be one of the biggest travesties that have occurred in my 46 year career.

I have been asked along with two of my classmates to serve on the committee for the class of '63 to help raise funds for the Centennial celebration for the CVM next year. If the decision to drop the Veterinary Technician program isn't reversed, I will personally have a difficult time contacting one third of my classmates asking them to support the celebration.

Having served on the Michigan Board of Licensing for Veterinary medicine for 7 ½ years, and the last three as the chair, I can strongly testify that the graduates of the MSU Veterinary Technician program had almost a 100% pass rate and far outshined the graduates of the other programs in the state. If I were in practice full-time and had a candidate from all four institutions that were all equally qualified, the MSU graduate would be offered the job. I personally think those that make the final decision should consider the long-range affect this will have on our profession and on the overall support of the profession outside of the walls of MSU.

It is my understanding that the line item in the budget for the Veterinary Technician program is less than \$500,000 and that fees alone bring in between \$900,000 and \$1,000,000. Personally, I think you stand to lose far more than that in financial support from those of us not connected to the University.

Not knowing all the things that go into making this sort of decision makes it very difficult to know what is the best answer. However, knowing that the three major individuals who are in line to make this momentous decision are all of food animal expertise, I would strongly urge you to consider the effect this will have on those of us who are in the companion animal practice and how that is going to affect all of us.

I have four of my former technicians working at the CVM at the present time, and I strongly urged them to take the positions at MSU when they were offered because I felt this was a great career change for them and would strongly enhance their own personal careers. I would have a very difficult time making that recommendation in the future if the program is dropped at MSU.

Edward G. Foster, D.V.M., P.L.L.C.

316 Beech Street
Charlotte, MI 48813-1006

Home: 517-543-3041 Cell: 517-230-7998 Fax: 517-543-3041 email: ed@fosterdvm.com

Having practiced small animal medicine for over 46 years now, I can very emphatically state that I could not have provided the quality of service to my patients and clients that they expect if I didn't have the benefit of having an MSU graduate Veterinary Technician on my team. Studies have shown that those practices that provide the best care and have the greatest income all have technicians working for them, and they provide much better care. I can honestly say I would most likely higher a technician before adding another veterinarian in this tough economic time.

One more thing that is important for MSU and CVM to take into consideration. While we have three other programs going in the state to train technicians, only those that graduate from MSU have the best qualification. I have personally worked with technicians from two of the other programs and it isn't the same. Also, I have had Baker students observe in the practice that I'm currently working at and they are not as well informed and trained as MSU students. I don't believe they can get the same hands on training that comes from working side by side with the clinicians at the CVM.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important decision and with the hope that the correct one is made for the CVM and MSU.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Foster, DVM

cc: Provost Kim Wilcox
cc: Jim Lloyd, DVM, PhD.
cc: David Sprecher, DVM,

December 8, 2009

University Committee on Academic Policy
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Dear Committee members:

I am writing in protest of the recent proposal to terminate the Veterinary Technician Program at Michigan State University. As a licensed veterinary technician who has worked as a veterinary technician for 32 years and currently serves on the AVMA's Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA), I urge you to consider the impact that termination of MSU's Veterinary Technician Program will have on the veterinary profession.

The veterinary technician program at MSU was one of the first, if not the first, to meet the high standards of program accreditation which set the bar for all veterinary technician program that followed. The quality of education that graduates of MSU's program receive surpasses that of many other programs as shown by the exceptional passing rate on the Veterinary Technician National Exam year after year. Students within the MSU program are enrolled in one of only two technician programs in the nation that is affiliated with a college of veterinary medicine, which gives those students a distinct advantage over students in other programs by having exposure to multiple disciplines, techniques, expertise and state of the art equipment. Many of the graduates of Michigan's technician program continue to work at the veterinary teaching hospital upon graduation which is a distinct advantage to the VTH.

Nationally, there continues to be a shortage of veterinary technicians, despite the increase in veterinary programs in the United States. Michigan State's Veterinary Technology Program graduates more than 30 students per year with a quality and level of education and technical exposure not seen in other programs.

In my years working as a veterinary technician, I have had the good fortune to work with MSU graduates, and their level of knowledge exceeds that in several areas over other technicians. It would be a shame for the veterinary profession to lose that.

I encourage the committee to carefully consider the loss to the profession, those students wanting to enroll, and to Michigan State by terminating the Veterinary Technology Program and to explore means to keep it alive and viable.

Sincerely,
Debbie Danforth, LVT
Vermont Veterinary Surgical Center
35 Clay Point Rd.
Colchester, VT 05446

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Save the Vet Tech program
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2009 3:58:41 PM

Dear Ms. Walther;

I am writing to ask that the Veterinary Technology program at MSU NOT be eliminated, and I ask that you please provide my letter to UCAP for the upcoming December 17 meeting.

I decided to change professions at the age of 38 and am about to graduate from the Veterinary Technology program. I have already taken my boards and have passed both national and state examinations. I chose MSU for my degree for one reason only, and that was for the excellent reputation of the Veterinary Technology (Vet Tech) program. Many of my classmates moved to East Lansing from homes hours away or even from other states after researching the different Vet Tech programs, and they chose MSU for the same reason – to get a top notch education.

This program is nationally known and recognized to be first rate. I listened to Dr. Brown's speech at the Vet Tech graduation last year and this year, and he spoke of what makes a veterinary hospital or clinic successful. He said the successful hospitals have a ratio of 3 technicians per veterinarian, while the least successful have a ratio of 1 technician per 3 veterinarians. If MSU has the number one program in the country, (and I believe they do!), and an excellent college of Veterinary Medicine and refuses to support this profession, I'm afraid the message will be sent that this profession doesn't deserve to be recognized. The program is also important in teaching the veterinary students how to work with technicians and our role in their future practices. The community and surrounding areas need not only great veterinarians but also excellent technicians! MSU should be willing to educate technicians just as they are willing to educate veterinary students, especially since the two careers work so closely together. This program also has more applicants than MSU can even accept, so it isn't like this is dying out or generates no interest.

If MSU wants to send the message that technicians aren't important, please consider this. Nobody would check into a hospital knowing that their doctor would be performing their surgery, monitoring their anesthesia and would be responsible for nursing care without the benefit of help from nurses. The same holds true for your animals, and without colleges accepting the importance of this profession and supporting it, this is what your furry friends will be looking forward to down the road!

Respectfully,

Ann Schaefer
Vet Tech Class of 2009 (and VERY proud of it!)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: For UCAP's December 17th Meeting
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2009 6:55:07 PM

Dear Ms. Sandra Walther,

Hello, my name is Amanda Greer, and I am currently a freshman veterinary technology major at Michigan State University. I am writing to tell you about why I think the Veterinary Technology program at MSU should not be cut. I chose to attend Michigan State for many reasons, but probably the number one reason for me was the vet tech program. I dreamed of going to Michigan State ever since middle school, and I've also dreamed of becoming a vet tech for that long. So it was a great gift to me that both of those dreams could be found in one place. I know that there are few other schools who have a veterinary technology program, and no one has as good of one as MSU does. It would be a great tragedy for all of the students after me who also dream of becoming a veterinary technician, and want to go to such a prestigious school as Michigan State, if this program was cut.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Amanda Greer