



## USF Students Protest Cuts

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TAMPA - Angry over proposed cuts to their programs, about 175 University of South Florida students and others rallied Tuesday to preserve women's studies, Africana studies, and the Institute on Latin America and the Caribbean at USF.

The catalyst for their protest: A faculty review of USF's academics, which found that the three programs seemed "reasonable places" to absorb some of anticipated budget cuts.

USF Provost Ralph Wilcox, however, has said he plans to eliminate no majors as the university weighs how to cut \$55 million from its budget, a grim scenario that includes a \$34 million cut to academics alone.

Wilcox does, though, plan to consolidate the administration of women's and Africana studies. The departments would retain their academic authority, USF spokesman Michael Hoad said.

The university has not announced how it plans to cut all the money, though it already has eliminated 100 vacant faculty positions throughout the university.

USF has not decided how to administrate the programs students rallied to protect Tuesday, though officials planned to talk later in the day with the marchers about their concerns.

The students marched from the Marshall Center student union to the plaza at Cooper Hall, a popular protest destination, and carried signs that read, "Rise Up: The System is Broken."

Before the march, Africana studies graduate student Reginald Eldridge spoke to the gathering crowd outside the Marshall Center and implored the administration to avoid "cutting at the margins."

State budget cuts are no excuse, Eldridge said. "If their hands are tied, why aren't they marching on Tallahassee right now?" he said.

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