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Committee of Eleven

September 17, 2020

Dear President Robbins,

On July 10, 2020 Faculty Senate created the ad hoc General Faculty Financial Advisory Committee (GFFAC) and charged it:

to work intensely with University of Arizona administrators over the next few weeks to conduct a “deep dive” into the financials of the university, and develop a proposal to mitigate some or all of our anticipated losses via a report that outlines possible solutions/recommendations based on our analysis.

At the August 3, 2020 meeting of the Faculty Senate, GFFAC presented the findings of its exhaustive investigation of the university finances, specifically recommending financial mitigation strategies that could serve as alternatives to our current Furlough and Furlough-based Pay Reduction Program. The final report that documented its evidence-based findings was sent to the executive leadership team on August 6, 2020.

In your email dated August 7, 2020, informing the UArizona community that you were moving ahead with your proposed Furlough and Furlough-based Pay Reduction program, you expressed that you were listening to GFFAC’s recommendations and that you would be making revisions in early October as we obtained more information, specifically from the UArizona fall census data and about our borrowing options.

We are encouraged by your email dated September 17, 2020 in which you reported higher-than-anticipated net tuition revenues and announced that the Furlough and Furlough-based Pay Reduction Program will end earlier than previously announced. You also stated that “the Business Affairs team will finalize a plan and adjust budgets accordingly.”

We, the Committee of Eleven, strongly urge you and the Business Affairs team to work with shared governance bodies, including GFFAC, SPBAC, Committee of Eleven, and Faculty Senate, to review the data and revise the current Furlough and Furlough-based Pay Reduction Program, and before making any budgetary adjustments.

Together, and only together, can we work toward the common goal of achieving and sustaining the mission of the University of Arizona.

Sincerely,

Committee of Eleven

