

April 2, 2024

To: S. Burgess, Vice President of ALVSCE and Dean of CALS

Re: FY2024 Budget Deficit- Recommendations from ALVSCE Faculty and Staff Shared Governance Leaders

Dear Vice President and Dean Burgess,

As leaders of the faculty and staff shared governance bodies in the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (CALES) and the Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension (ALVSCE) at the University of Arizona, we respectfully submit this recommendation regarding the FY2024 CALES budget deficit.

We understand the financial challenges faced by the College and the University as a whole. However, if the only way to eliminate the FY2024 CALES structural budget deficit is by reducing our faculty and/or staff positions, the College should choose to end the fiscal year with this structural budget deficit.

Our faculty and staff are the backbone of our College, ensuring the delivery of high-quality academic programs, conducting groundbreaking research, and fulfilling our mission to serve the people and the State of Arizona. The loss of even one of our valuable staff or faculty would have severe and long-lasting impacts on our ability to maintain the excellence we strive for in our teaching, research, and outreach efforts. In addition, further faculty and staff reductions will negatively impact the College's ability to generate tuition revenues and grant funding.

As a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) college, CALES is vital in educating students and communities, preparing them for success in regional and global economies. Additionally, our research efforts focus on developing new knowledge and technologies that benefit society. These missions are more critical than ever as the University of Arizona serves the role of a land-grant institution taking on the grand challenges of the future.

We remain committed to working with the administration to find ways to operate efficiently and effectively while maintaining the quality of our programs and services. We believe preserving our faculty and staff positions, especially now, is critically needed so we can continue to drive innovation, foster student success, and serve as leaders in addressing the complex issues facing our state and the world.

Moreover, we advocate for a transparent decision-making process regarding this matter. Transparency ensures trust, fosters a culture of inclusivity, and promotes a shared understanding among all faculty, staff, and stakeholders. By continuing to engage in open discussions and considering diverse viewpoints, we can explore creative and equitable solutions that uphold the integrity and mission of our College.

We ask that you consider this recommendation and continue to work with us to find alternative solutions to address the structural budget deficit that does not involve the loss of vital faculty and staff positions.

Sincerely,

Timothy Ottusch Katharine H. Zeiders Robert M Torres
CALES Faculty Senators- Tim Ottusch, Katherine Zeiders, Robert Torres

Kathleen Kennedy
ALVSCE Faculty Council-Ashlee Linares-Gaffer (chair), Kathleen Kennedy (vice-chair)

Rachel Doty Kristen Vann
ALVSCE Staff Council- Rachel Doty (co-chair), Kristen Vann (co-chair)

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