June 22, 2020

**UA Faculty Call for An Unprecedented General Assembly Vote to Delay Furloughs/Pay Cuts**

**Tucson, Ariz.** – On June 25, the University of Arizona General Faculty will take an unprecedented full faculty vote to demand the administration halt the most draconian university furlough/pay cut plan in the country. The General Assembly will convene from 2-3 pm and will be open to all faculty, staff and graduate students. The vote by faculty, to be held after the General Assembly, will be conducted electronically.

The motion that the General Faculty will consider and vote on advises the Administration to delay the onset of its furlough plan until the fall, so that the plan can be revised to lessen its harsh effects on the most vulnerable University employees and on Tucson’s economy.

The vote comes as a result of the efforts of the Coalition for Academic Justice at UA (CAJUA), a campus-wide group of staff, faculty, graduate and professional students, formed in April after the upper administration rolled out plans for deep pay cuts in response to an existing budget crisis worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Administrators have begun layoffs and non-renewals of staff and faculty who contribute to the core mission of the university – teaching, research and service.

Two weeks ago, the coalition released an alternative and more equitable plan that would generate a comparable amount of savings while raising the salary at which the furloughs begin to $70,000. Under the administration’s plan, furloughs begin at $45,000. Under the university’s plan the majority of faculty would face a 15 percent pay cut for at least a year, or 3- to 5-times more than peers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for example. Other peer institutions, such as Arizona State University are not implementing pay-cuts or furloughs.

If the faculty vote succeeds in delaying the furlough plan, CAJUA hopes to work with the Administration to come up with a more equitable and compassionate plan to advance the University’s mission and financial health in this difficult time.

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