

# COALITION FOR ACADEMIC JUSTICE



## Press Release

## For: Immediate Release

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## General Faculty Recommend Delay of Furlough Plan in Historic Vote

Tucson, Ariz., - More than 1,300 faculty members of the University of Arizona have sent a very strong message to President Robert Robbins and senior leadership: Delay the administration's furlough plan and include faculty and staff in the decision-making process. Eighty-nine percent of the 1,462 faculty members who cast ballots voted in favor of delaying the furlough/pay cut plan. The UA administration's furlough plan, set to begin on July 1, is the most severe, requiring far deeper pay cuts than those at peer institutions.

The faculty vote requests that the administration delay the plan until mid-September, "to allow time for the study and revision in collaboration with shared governance bodies and the General Faculty." Forty-one percent of the voting-eligible faculty cast ballots. "Given that this was a summer vote in the midst of a pandemic, called with 24 hours in which to cast ballots, we're very pleased with this outcome and the strong support it indicates for the good of the university," said Celeste González de Bustamante, associate professor and member of the CAJUA steering committee.

The vote comes on the heels of a [presentation](#) by independent financial analyst, Prof. Howard Bunsis of Eastern Michigan University, who revealed that the UA has other options aside from furloughs to address the projected shortfall related to COVID-19. Bunsis suggested the administration consider more equitable ways to make up for losses, such as dipping into the millions of dollars in UA unrestricted funds and having top administrators shoulder more of the burden through deeper pay cuts.

Electronic ballots were sent to more than 3,513 faculty yesterday at an unprecedented meeting of the General Assembly. During that meeting, more than 1500 faculty, staff, students and members of the community listened to presentations from members of the [Coalition for Academic Justice](#) at UA (CAJUA), explaining why the administration's furlough/pay cut plan needs to be delayed.

The coalition, 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. Following the announcement of the furloughs, the administrators began layoffs and non-renewals of staff and faculty who contribute to the core mission of the university – research, teaching and service.

Members of the Coalition for Academic Justice ask the administration to acknowledge this historic vote and enter into a shared governance process that leads to a plan that minimizes harm to the most vulnerable employees at the university.

The breakdown of the vote is as follows:

Yes	1305
No	128
Abstain	29
Total	1,462

**Coalition for Academic Justice**

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