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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

May 7, 2024, 10:58 a.m.



Dear Colleagues,

I am sorry this letter on FY25 ALVSCE unit financing is so long in coming to you. I am sorry for the stress and worry you have had. I wish it was possible for me to have gotten it to you sooner.

On April 18, Jeff Ratje and I met for 15 minutes by Zoom with Provost Ron Marx, CFO John Arnold and Vice President/Chief Budget Officer Garth Perry to receive our FY25 spending authority. Since that date, we have been in continued communication with each of them, though never together as a group, by email, text and phone to clarify the following.

FY25 Spending Authority Bottom Lines

- **Arizona Experiment Station:** *Zero Base Budgeted. No reduction* in FY25 spending authority because of the financial crisis.
- **Cooperative Extension System:** *Statutory separate state line. No reduction* in FY25 spending authority because of the financial crisis.
- **College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences:** **\$7.1M** or **9.6%** **reduction** in spending authority for FY25 unrestricted funds because of the financial crisis.

What we will now do.

Consistent with what I told you at the March 15 ALVSCE Town Hall ([Recording](#) | [Slides](#)):

1. There will be **no across-the-board involuntary separations of employees paid on CALES unrestricted funds** because of this reduced spending authority.
2. I will continue to **prioritize jobs paid by unrestricted funds.**
3. We will continue to prioritize **transparency, protecting academic freedom and faculty self-governance, shared governance and zero tolerance of inequity or**

discrimination of any kind.

How we will do it.

The numbers below are rounded for ease of reading and accurate as of today. Please also see my [March 10](#) and [April 1](#) emails to you.

1. Voluntary separations since January 2024: \$4.8M
2. Research professors funded by restricted funding: \$200K
3. Accrued balances in unallocated endowments: \$500K
4. Non-salary expenditure reductions (ex: travel, office supplies, delaying start-up spending, equipment, seminars, and unit retreats): \$1.6M

The university will invest an additional \$10M into CALES to offset the structured imbalance between revenues and expenses under the AIB model caused in most part by the three years of unfunded mandatory salary adjustments totaling \$19M.

We will continue to use our *ordinary business practices*, especially our standard and regular shared-governance business, finance and budget meetings. Our next meeting is today - May 7.

On CALES having the largest percentage reduction in FY25 spending authority of any college.

Provost Marx spoke with CFO Arnold and then assured me by text on April 25 that *“there will be no FY26 reductions for ALVSCE”*. I responded that I didn’t think anyone could assure us we wouldn’t see reductions in ALVSCE (the CES is completely at the mercy of the State Legislature, for example, and we will have another provost on July 1). Also *“although we do have a bigger percentage decrease in FY25 spending authority, we have on record that this apparent inequality/inequity is mitigated by the fact that it will be taken into account as further changes may occur for FY25 and for FY26.”*

Please remember that since 2011 we have been through a great recession and a pandemic, with all its financial challenges, *together*. We have been through a lot. We have been exemplary. We are now tasked to do the extra-ordinary again. I am betting on us, together. I ask you to do so also. Yet again.

Best regards,

Shane

Shane C. Burgess

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Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences
The University of Arizona

This email was sent to: ALVSCE faculty, staff, and postdoctoral research associates.

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