



March 23, 2020

To: University of Alberta President David Turpin
Board of Governors Chair Kate Chisholm

Dear President Turpin and Chair Chisholm,

We have now been informed that the University of Alberta is not putting planned layoffs on hold, but rather plans to proceed full steam ahead and give additional people across the university layoff notices before March 31, 2020.

As the U of A responds to the COVID-19 crisis, everyone working at the university has pulled together in amazing ways to keep things running. The university now needs to show its support for everyone working on campus: student workers, support staff, faculty and academic staff, academically employed graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. These groups are all vital in supporting the university's mandate.

To proceed with layoffs in the current situation is shameful.

Today the campus associations representing undergraduate students, graduate students, support staff, faculty & academic staff, and post-doctoral fellows jointly call for the University of Alberta to take the following actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Employee Benefits: Continue full enrollment in all health benefit plans provided by or paid through the University of Alberta for all persons enrolled in those plans at February 1, 2020 for the duration of the COVID-19 health crisis.

Payroll: Continue payments to every person currently on the University of Alberta payroll system for the duration of the COVID-19 health crisis. For full-time persons, normal pay should continue. For part-time persons, weekly pay should be an average of the past eight weeks of pay.

With many governments, businesses large and small, and organizations of all kinds across the continent making commitments to their workers to see them through this health crisis, it is time for the University of Alberta to join these other leaders and make the commitment to their workers that morality demands.

In addition, we call on the provincial government to provide the appropriate amount of funding to enable post-secondary, and all other government-funded sectors, to appropriately respond to the global pandemic.

We look forward to your response on this critical issue,

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