

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.

President

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June 27, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing to provide an update because tomorrow is the last business day of the fiscal year, and though we still do not have a budget from the state, we will need to move forward with planning for a reduced budget.

The Legislature approved \$322 million in FY 2020 operating funds for UA, down \$5 million (1.5 percent) from \$327 in FY 2019. The budget awaits the Governor's decision regarding whether to approve the amount approved by the Legislature or veto the appropriation down to a lesser amount. Recall that the Governor's original proposal for UA's budget included a cut of \$134 million (41 percent), so we could be looking at a substantial reduction.

We are meeting with the Board of Regents tomorrow, Friday, June 28, from 11:00 – 1:00, to update the board on the budget. We also will seek approval of interim measures we can put into place immediately upon the Governor's decision as well as a plan to return to the Board next month, after the Legislature has had a chance to consider overriding budget vetoes, with more specific direction for potential cost reductions in FY 2020.

I appreciate very much your support and advocacy over the last several months, your patience in dealing with the uncertainty regarding our funding from the state, and your relentless focus on serving our mission on behalf of our students and our state.

As soon as we hear from the Governor, we will let you know!

Jim Johnsen