

Feb. 24, 2016

Dear Colleagues –

I want to thank you all for the many letters of support you have sent to legislators and legislative committees over these past few weeks advocating for the university's budget. Your voices were heard loud and clear and they will continue to be an important element as the legislative process moves forward. The House UA Budget Subcommittee closed out its deliberations this evening and voted to send a budget of \$300 million (a net reduction of \$50 million from FY16, and \$35 million from the Governor's request for FY17) to the full House Finance Committee. While I am disappointed, I am encouraged by the statements of support I have heard from many legislators and by the small, but meaningful, increase from \$288 million where the subcommittee began. They are cognizant of the fiscal problems facing the state, as we all are, but they recognize that a great state needs a great university. I will continue to press our case to the full House Finance Committee when it convenes its hearings on the state's operating budget next week. We will provide additional information later this week when we learn more about your opportunity to offer public testimony to the full Finance Committee.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnsen
President