



Board of Supervisors
Members, Districts 4, 6, 7

City and County of San Francisco

October 5, 2020

Lynn Mahoney, President
San Francisco State University
Office of the President
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132
email: president@sfsu.edu

Re: SFSU Employee Layoff Notices

Dear President Mahoney:

We write to you with great concern regarding the layoff notices recently issued to 120 SFSU support staff. In this period of COVID-19, we realize the difficult financial and programmatic challenges facing the SFSU administration, its employees and its students. However, we are dismayed to hear that critical support staff are receiving layoff notices under the premise that budget cuts are making such actions necessary.

The University is a tremendous asset to the City and County of San Francisco as an institution of higher learning and a valued employer. The SFSU student population is among the most ethnically and economically diverse in the country. SFSU needs its workers to perform the critical work of making CSU safe, accessible and operational for students and employees.

This reduction in staff will place in jeopardy SFSU's ability to recruit students and support them in myriad ways, including program coordination, registration assistance, communications amidst digital learning, guidance on financial aid and resources that enable timely graduation. These employee layoffs will also deprive workers and their families of their healthcare, thus placing their lives in jeopardy as they become increasingly vulnerable to a devastating COVID-19 pandemic. Your decision results in operational and financial burdens that we believe are avoidable.



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We call on you and your administration to explore all options to avoid these harmful cuts. We support the state legislature's directive that CSU campuses use their budget surpluses to mitigate ongoing state budget cuts. According to a recent state audit, SFSU held a budget surplus of nearly \$192 million in June 2018 of which approximately half were discretionary funds that the University could use to mitigate staff layoffs.

Given the potential impacts on student retention and outcomes from layoffs saving approximately \$9.1 million, the University budget surplus could be used to avoid unprecedented and drastic action.

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the role of higher education in supporting our students and communities impacted on many fronts. In difficult times we advise reconsidering decisions that result in long-term consequences and short-term gains. We believe that during this challenging economic and societal crisis, the protection of employee jobs should be an utmost SFSU priority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gordon Mar in black ink.

Gordon Mar, District 4 Supervisor

Handwritten signature of Norman Yee in blue ink.

Norman Yee, District 7 Supervisor,
President, SF Board of Supervisors

Handwritten signature of Matt Haney in blue ink.

Matt Haney, District 6 Supervisor