



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Campus Workers of Georgia Kennesaw State Chapter

Email: ucwga.ksu@gmail.com

Twitter: @KsuUcw

Phone: 315-263-1502

KSU Union to Host 'Real' Campus Conversation On KSU Budget and Layoffs

In person and virtual participation options provided, press invited.

[Kennesaw, Georgia] The KSU chapter of the [United Campus Workers](#) will host **"A REAL Campus Conversation" on Wednesday, October 28th, 2020 at 12 pm [virtually](#) and in person on the Kennesaw campus green. Press are invited to attend.**

On August 7, 2020, Kennesaw State University President Pam Whitten and her administration held a supposed "Campus Conversation" in which they chose questions to answer ahead of time and recorded a one hour conversation for staff and faculty to watch. President Whitten called on the campus community "to be kind and respectful to everyone." Three days later, KSU quietly laid off 24 salaried workers. Since August 7, with no meaningful conversation, transparency, or support for affected workers, KSU has permanently eliminated or furloughed the jobs of nearly 50 KSU staff.

"KSU has been less than honest in its messaging about these layoffs and furloughs it's truly appalling how KSU is treating these workers. Where is the kindness and respect President Whitten has called for?" said KSU worker and union member Amy Donahue. Although a KSU spokesperson told the press they had to lay off workers because Governor Kemp prohibited furloughs (although he did not), KSU is now furloughing some of its workers all while hitting record breaking enrollment and collecting \$18.5 million in additional tuition revenue this semester alone.

United Campus Workers has been collecting budget information from Open Records Requests and talking directly to laid off and furloughed workers. Several workers have filed EEO complaints and registered appeals with the Board of Regents. We will share this information to begin our conversation and invite our fellow workers and students to share questions, concerns, and comments about the KSU budget and layoffs. We also will encourage collective brainstorming to think about how we can work together to save people's jobs, insurance, and livelihoods.

UCWGa/KSU is a chapter of United Campus Workers of Georgia Local 3265 (www.ucwga.com), and affiliate of the Communications Workers of America (www.cwa-union.org).