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KSU Workers Woke Up to Job Uncertainty

Union Demands President Be Accountable to All Workers

[Kennesaw, Georgia] — Earlier today, the Kennesaw State University (KSU) chapter of United Campus Workers sent [a memorandum to KSU President Pamela Whitten](#) calling attention to the continued lack of transparency in decision-making and the failure to protect the wages of the lowest-compensated members of the KSU community.

On Friday, May 22nd, 2020 at 8:30am before the Memorial Day weekend, workers at Kennesaw State University (KSU) received an e-mailed announcement and link to the [administration's proposed budget cuts](#) in response to the demand for a 14% reduction in state-funding. Most of those whose jobs and salaries will be most directly impacted by the budget cuts were only told at 8:00am virtual meetings announced late the evening before.

As one UCWGA/KSU member, Sara Giordano, shared, "It is unsettling to receive so little information when my co-workers and I have no idea about who will have jobs come July 1st. When we talk about closing programs to save the university money, we are talking about people's livelihoods, real people and real consequences to their lives. We deserve the decent respect to be told what is happening."

An open records request [published in the AJC on May 26](#) revealed what the union and others feared - the euphemisms such as "operational efficiencies" in the KSU budget announcement were actually layoffs. In total, the document revealed that KSU planned to eliminate or leave vacant 202 positions. UCWGA/KSU questions KSU's decision to cut jobs first especially during this crisis when so many of our workers and their families are already suffering. UCWGA/KSU

demands that all options including salary caps, low-interest loans, using so-called 'rainy day funds', and more progressive furloughs be considered before cutting any jobs.

KSU staff and faculty each have their own shared governance structures, neither of which was consulted. UCWGA/KSU demands that the structures in place be utilized to assure full transparency and shared decision-making. At least one unit on campus, the Chairs and Directors Assembly, passed and sent [its own resolution](#) criticizing the administration's response. In addition, we have called since [March 29, 2020](#), for a town hall to allow students, staff, and faculty to share concerns and ask questions directly to administrators. We insist on worker participation in decision-making.

UCWGA/KSU is struck by the lack of imagination in the administration's first pass at a COVID-19 budget plan. Cutting jobs shouldn't come first. We implore KSU to think more creatively and humanely in the adjustments that must be made, and we hope for a shift towards transparency and shared governance in the coming weeks and months.

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).

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