



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2020

United Campus Workers of Georgia Kennesaw State Chapter

Email: [ucwga.ksu@gmail.com](mailto:ucwga.ksu@gmail.com)

Twitter: @KsuUcw

## **KSU Lays Off 24 During COVID-19 Crisis**

### *KSU Union Calls for Layoff Reversal*

**[Kennesaw, Georgia]** — On August 10, 2020, Kennesaw State University (KSU) quietly laid off 24 workers. Earlier today, the KSU chapter of United Campus Workers of Georgia (UCWGA-KSU) released [a series of videos](#) calling out the hypocrisy of President Whitten who has insisted we all “be kind and respectful” to each other during these unprecedented times. UCWGA-KSU calls on the KSU administration to 1) be transparent by releasing the current budget along with their budget cut decision-making process, and 2) reinstate the jobs of workers recently given layoff notices.

The layoffs are unnecessary considering record high enrollments that KSU announced earlier this summer. Also, these layoffs disproportionately impact lower paid (more than half made less than \$40,000, two-thirds under \$50,000), female (70%), and Black-identified workers (20%). Heather Pincock, a UCWGA-KSU member, notes “President Whitten makes nearly \$500,000. Why wouldn’t KSU reduce overpaid salaries such as Whitten’s before laying off poorer workers during a worldwide pandemic?” These workers will not only lose much needed income during what may be the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, but will also lose health insurance during a critical time.

Workers are particularly concerned about the pattern of these layoffs. Last year, a system-wide Comprehensive Administrative Review (CAR) resulted in 22 layoffs at KSU (an initiative that, incidentally, drew some members into union work out of their frustration). In late May, a second round of KSU workers were told that their jobs might be eliminated. These workers waited in anticipation and fear, putting off plans for down payments on homes, home repairs, and more. No doubt, this added to stress and anxiety during a very stressful period for everyone. So far the administration has neglected to inform the campus of its plans to layoff workers. Therefore, workers who were not laid off remain worried about their jobs and wellbeing. UCWGA-KSU learned of the recent round of layoffs through an Open Records Request that KSU finally responded to last week. UCWGA-KSU demands transparency in budgeting. Pincock said, “While President Whitten has asked us to ‘be kind and respectful’ to each other during this crisis, we ask her in return to be kind and respectful to us by being transparent, protecting jobs, and focusing on our safety.”

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

###