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March 19, 2020

Dr. David Turpin  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Alberta President's Office  
2-24 South Academic Building  
11328-89 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J7

Dear President Turpin,

Albertans are facing an unprecedented situation in the spread of COVID-19; the Government of Alberta has declared an official state-of-emergency, and services across the province are being closed indefinitely to assist in slowing the spread of the virus.

AASUA members have stepped up to this enormous challenge and have worked with University Administration to minimize disruption in delivering academic services, most significantly in shifting to online instruction on extremely short notice so that enrolled students may continue with their studies. Our AASUA members have been called on by the University of Alberta to minimize the negative effects of this situation as much as possible on those who rely on the University's services.

What is evident, in response to this extraordinary event, is how little margin there truly is for the further reduction of Academic and non-Academic staff at the University of Alberta. The Government of Alberta's directive to shed public-sector staff and cut education, healthcare and other services across the province does not hold up – this has never been more clear than in a crisis such as this.

On March 13, 2020, you announced that further lay-offs would be carried out in response to the Government of Alberta's further reduction to post-secondary spending.

I call on you and the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta to set aside implementation of any layoffs at least until the COVID -19 crises subsides and advise the government that such a reduction is untenable. Reducing academic and other staff at

the University will compound the stresses on remaining staff who are continuing to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This frankly, is unconscionable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Kane', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Kane  
AASUA President

cc. Board of Governors Chair, Kate Chisholm, Q.C.  
cc. NASA President, Elizabeth Johansson