

Senator Zeiders Open Session Remarks to UA Faculty Senate, Monday, Sept. 11th, 2023

I'm Katie Zeiders, a senator in the College of Agriculture Life and Environmental sciences. Today I want to alert you to challenges that my colleagues and I are facing related to AIB (activity informed budgeting). AIB replaced RCM in 2022, and has not been well implemented, to the detriment of academic units and their ability to function and plan ahead.

If we could describe AIB in a broad stroke, we would say that it is a model that sweeps significantly more money from academic units (your college, my college), and hoards the money at central administration. A plurality of the money swept from colleges goes into the Strategic Budget Allocation (SBA) fund, which we are learning is a fund in which colleges have to beg for money to be returned to their units. SBA allocation decisions are not transparent nor do they follow shared governance principles. Further, they have come so late in the year, they inhibit planning ahead. The AIB model represents the largest taxation of colleges we've ever seen at UA, and allows Central Admin to use millions of Arizona tax payer's dollars with no accountability to the university community.

There is no doubt that the AIB model is adversely impacting your college right now - employees not being paid on time, hiring freezes, promotions taken back, and non-renewals of faculty and staff.

Specific to CALES: We are an exemplary college in many ways. Since 2015, my colleagues and I have increased our student credit hours by nearly 50% and our research funding by nearly 30%. The last fiscal year was no exception - we increased both student credit hours and research dollars.

Despite doing everything right, under the new AIB model, CALES is facing a \$10 million dollar shortfall this fiscal year. And projections suggest that things will get even worse in the next two years under AIB, **EVEN If we continue our trajectories of growth**. So effectively, *we produce more, we get less, central admin grows*.

I will follow up with Senators with more information on the CALES situation in the coming weeks. But in the interest of all our colleagues, and the health of our colleges and academic units, I encourage senators to start asking questions about AIB; We should be calling for an elimination of the taxing of our reserves, a reduction of the 3% annual takeback, and a reversal of the additional 2% takeback in our current budgets.