

MEMORANDUM

November 25, 2024

To: Suresh Garimella, President, University of Arizona
Ron Marx, Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
John Arnold, Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer, Business Affairs

From: Duarte Diaz, CALES Faculty Senator, Professor and Extension Specialist,
School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Katharine Zeiders, Secretary of the Faculty, Professor, Norton School of
Family and Consumer Sciences
Melanie Hingle, CALES Faculty Senator, Professor, School of Nutritional
Sciences and Wellness
Robert Torres, CALES Faculty Senator, Professor, Department of Agricultural
Education, Technology & Innovation
Kathleen Kennedy, ALVSCE Faculty Council Chair, Associate Professor of Practice,
Norton School of Human Ecology

Subject: Cooperative Extension Spending Restrictions

As faculty representatives of the Division of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences, Veterinary Science and Cooperative Extension, we are deeply concerned about the decisions to limit the spending authority on Cooperative Extension. These decisions are poised to undermine the state and federally mandated mission of Cooperative Extension to improve lives, families, communities, environment and economies in Arizona and beyond. We are urging the removal of the spending authority limitations and any restrictions on carry forward funds to ensure that Cooperative Extension programs have the finances to sustain essential daily operational functions and fulfill their core, legislatively mandated mission.

Cooperative Extension's network and programming across the State has been directly impacted by current spending authority controls and inability to use carry-forward funds. Specifically, spending restrictions are undermining day-to-day operations; Cooperative Extension faculty are unable to hire the staff necessary to deliver essential programming, agents and staff are scaling back or discontinuing critical programs, and specialists and county agents are using their own personal funds to travel to stakeholders' operations to address their needs.

While other UA units and colleges face spending restrictions that negatively impact the academic mission, we believe the nature of the work in Cooperative Extension is uniquely distinct. Its success requires flexibility and, in many instances, the ability to pivot quickly to address critical community's needs, safeguard public health, and support economic growth throughout the state. These financial restrictions are curtailing execution of the university's

fundamental land grant mission that may lead to an erosion of trust between Cooperative Extension and our community stakeholders, the State of Arizona, and Arizona legislators.

We urge you to take immediate action to lift the spending authority cap on Cooperative Extension and to ensure that carry-forward funds can be used for the intended purposes outlined by state appropriations. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns in greater detail and would be happy to provide any additional information about this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.