

Survey on faculty views regarding finances and priorities

“with quotes from faculty”

304 total respondents

85% of union membership

58% of the bargaining unit



The University has **not been transparent** about its finances.

80% of faculty agree that the University should release its monthly cash-flow statements so that the faculty, students, arbitrator, and Akron community have a clear view of the finances.

“Accurate financial information is vital. Without such, it is difficult to determine the best action.”

“Virus pandemic: smokescreen for force majeure. Real issue: years of administrative incompetence”

“The community deserves and demands transparency, especially, when trying to trigger draconian measures like firing tenured faculty.”

“UA finances are not transparent.”

Cutting 1/5 of the faculty is not the way to save the University.

82% of faculty agree that there are better ways to cover the expected short-fall than cutting academics, including: cuts to administrative salaries, adjustments to athletics spending, and cutting legal expenses.

“There are now over 20 sections of Developmental Math unstaffed and many of the sections are full. This is a disservice to our students who desperately need these courses. Most likely many of them will be canceled due to the lack of available instructors. The majority of the students enrolled in these courses come from urban areas; not serving this population could be viewed as discrimination.”

“The devaluing of the humanities and social sciences has damaged our reputation as a university and has hurt enrollment. We have to reverse this trend.”

Athletics spending needs to be curbed if the administration is interested in continuing the academic mission of the University.

88% of faculty agree that athletics spending at UA has created a financial burden on UA’s students and mission by diverting tuition dollars to support athletics.

81% of faculty agree that reducing spending on athletics programs (for example, by dropping to Division II) is better for students, the University, and the Akron community than firing full-time faculty.

89% of faculty agree that if seasons are canceled or postponed, then coaching staff should be furloughed, just as other employees would be if there were not work for them to do.

Faculty believe the administration has discriminated against them and violated due process.

78% of faculty agree that the administration failed to provide the faculty union with objective criteria used to target those faculty.

72% of faculty agree that the administration denied faculty due process by failing to provide the faculty identified on the RIF list an opportunity to dispute the rationale.

“Let’s absolutely require release of criteria to lay-off faculty. We demand to know whether chair recommendations for the RIF list were followed and examine any case in which those recommendations were vetoed by upper admin.”

Faculty are willing to make concessions when they are based on clear, accurate data and shared sacrifice with the administration.

73% of faculty agree that any concessions must be tied to financial triggers like enrollment or changes in state support.

82% of faculty agree that any concessions must be tied to pay cuts and/or furloughs for administrators and coaches earning over \$150K annually.

“We were willing to take pay cuts; the wholesale chopping of faculty without due process (and the resultant chaos in students’ schedules this fall) was what we objected to.”

“Faculty should also have the opportunity to see the administration cut list.”

“The UA president, or any UA admin or coach, should not have a country club membership paid for by UA.”

“UA has too many administrators; they hired two new top ones in March 2020 or later with \$300k+ salaries. This is inconsistent with the so-called financial pinch UA is having. They are not being honest with their financial numbers. They should be asked to open up the books to the arbitrator so the truth will be revealed. They are instilling fear in the minds of faculty with these random layoffs.”

“Those responsible for UA mismanagement need to be accountable. Does AkronU need several Provosts and CFOs? Especially the ones who bear responsibility for the financial state of the University?”