Petition for the Adoption of Principles to Address Covid19 Recovery at Salem State
June 5, 2020

We as Tenured Salem State faculty and Librarians urge that the President, the administration, and the Board of Trustees of Salem State University adopt the following principles to address the present crisis BEFORE acting to carry out cuts, reductions or restructuring at SSU:

1. REJECT AUSTERITY. Austerity--the idea that continuing to further “tighten our belts” by cutting jobs and programs--is a threat to people’s livelihoods and our economy. Higher education is a public good. The President, the administration and the Board must work to reject any attempts to cut programs, student, staff and faculty jobs, or student services since, without these, it is impossible to provide the quality education that the students need and deserve. Thus, this is the time to use campus and state reserves and endowments where possible to preserve programs and personnel and move to place a moratorium on, restructure or refinance campus capital debt if not abolish such capital debt as state university obligation.

2. SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL RELIEF FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION. To ensure a stable system of public higher education, we ask President Keenan, the SSU administration and the Board of Trustees to publicly call on the Council of Presidents to publicly, widely and systematically press state and federal governments for relief funding so that campus operations, including but not limited to jobs, programs, and academic departments, are preserved, students can attend debt-free college, and student and campus capital debt can be forgiven or abolished.

3. GUARANTEE ACCOUNTABLE USE OF RELIEF FUNDING. All relief funding for public higher education from federal, state, and local governments shall be distributed transparently according to principles of shared governance, with the campus administration, faculty, staff, and students jointly determining the best use of relief funds.