California State University, Chico
Chico, California 95929-0707
Division of Business and Finance Leadership

PETITION

December 8, 2015

Dear Academic Senate:

We, the undersigned members of the management team for the CSU, Chico Division of Business and Finance, being respectful and supportive of the principles of shared governance, desire to go on record and publicly oppose the "No Confidence" resolution deliberations to be held in the Academic Senate on December 10, 2015.

We strongly recommend that the Academic Senate **reject the subject Resolution for No Confidence** as it is not in the best interest of the entire campus community. This action will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on trust and goodwill, and will destroy the genuine progress made in addressing concerns raised by members of the campus community. More importantly, these actions will negatively affect the students we are here to serve and tarnish this great institution's reputation, and to what end? Leadership, collegiality, and cooperation must be advanced – not repeatedly eroded, if we are to remain united as a campus community in support of our students.

As members of the Division of Business and Finance we are committed to serving this campus and have followed the lead of our Vice President as she has directed numerous initiatives – many behind the scenes – to provide support and services to the faculty, staff, and students across this campus. Under VP Hoffman's leadership, new buildings have come online, on time and on budget. Her financial acumen led us through one of the worst economic times in California's history and not one person was laid off due to budget reasons. Under VP Hoffman's direction OpenGov Financial Transparency Portal was implemented, compensation and advancement information has been made widely available, and employee professional development and training offerings are higher than ever. Further, VP Hoffman has not only provided explanations, presentations, and updates relating to budget and audit matters but has committed staff and resources to achieve the highest levels of transparency. The requests of the Senate and the greater campus community have been heard and acted upon by VP Hoffman.

VP Hoffman has the full support and commitment of her management team. We can absolutely assert that she has always placed the best interest of the campus and the students we serve first. We contend that this resolution is misplaced, vitriolic, and not reflective of the true actions of the executive leaders named in the proposed resolution, and would question if it truly reflects the will of the campus community.

Through this letter, we urge the Senate to exercise caution and diligence in this matter by rejecting this latest No Confidence challenge. We have witnessed increased collaboration and transparency over the past several months with the majority of the Senate's questions answered and many requests for change already in place or progressing. Repeated denigration of our executive leadership undermines our collective forward progress.

Should there be any fact finding by the Senate, we ask that selected members of our group be provided an opportunity to offer testimony or evidence regarding specific acts by our Division and our Vice President that refute the allegations in the subject Resolution.

Thank you for acknowledging this petition and for considering charting an alternate course of action that promotes a climate where the principles of civility, respect and shared governance move us forward.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

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Associate Vice President Financial Services

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Director, Business Services

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Assistant Vice President PDC

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cc: Paul J. Zingg, President
Lorraine B. Hoffman, VP Business & Finance
Susan Elrod, Interim Provost
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