



University of  
Kentucky

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT  
Eli Capilouto

Members of the University Community,

Last Friday and Saturday, the General Assembly completed its 2018 session. Their decision to override the Governor's vetoes of the budget and revenue bills ensures the Commonwealth will have a budget for the next two fiscal years.

As I wrote to you April 2, we believe the combination of a reduction to our base appropriation and the opportunity to earn investment through performance funding will yield an overall reduction of approximately three percent. The budget preserves funding for nearly all mandated programs and invests \$40 million in our research enterprise over the next two years to target health disparities that disproportionately affect Kentuckians. We appreciate the effort of the legislature to fund Kentucky's flagship university to the degree possible in the face of financial realities.

As to the budget language regarding tenure, our position remains the same: tenure is an essential element of the search for truth and the transmission of knowledge; and we will adhere to our Governing Regulations to provide transparency and due process.

The General Assembly passed separate legislation amending statutes affecting postsecondary education. The changes were made in consultation with the institutions and provide to us greater autonomy and flexibility. For example, faculty and staff employed at Kentucky's public institutions will no longer be able to take classes at any other institution without paying tuition. This is an important change because it is very difficult to bear the financial burden of our colleagues from other institutions attending UK classes without sharing in the cost. It is important to note this has no impact on the Employee Education Program and Family Education Program we maintain for our faculty and staff who take classes at the University of Kentucky or have family members who do so. We also understand this statutory change requires us to be even more aggressive in responding to the needs of our faculty and staff for courses and programs that keep them current in the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed and serve in a rapidly changing economy.

Now that there is clarity on our state appropriation, I will be talking with the University Senate [April 23](#) and the Board of Trustees [May 1](#) to provide more detail on our budget for 2018-19 and beyond.

Thank you for your perseverance and steady focus on our work throughout the Spring Semester, even in the midst of considerable uncertainty. Our ability to secure a budget that continues to support what we do is a direct result of your considerable efforts and the results we are producing for Kentucky.

Eli Capilouto

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

