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Board of Curators

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Dear Missouri S&T Faculty Senate –

Thank you for providing valuable input to the Board's discussion about the UM System structure. We appreciate the perspectives of each constituency as we consider our decision in the best interests of our universities.

As we all know, COVID-19 has brought a new set of fiscal consequences to the forefront of this evaluation, but our decision will be made based what is best for our institutions well beyond this current challenge. Our goal is to sustain and advance our exceptional universities, including Missouri S&T. It is our responsibility to seek actions that will maximize shared resources, best serve our citizens and continue the pursuit of excellence for each university.

Many assumptions have been made that potential conflicts of interest will not be addressed, that universities will be reduced to branch offices, and that programs will diminish and suffer in the national rankings. These assumptions are open to question and we believe there are ways to address these and other concerns. As we keep open minds, we ask that you do the same. Through the entire process, we will work to understand these and other varied concerns. We will also support our decisions with data and remain committed to transparency, as demonstrated by the substantial amount of information we have made publicly available on the UM System website: <https://www.umsystem.edu/curators/organizational-structure-evaluation>. We will continue to share updates, including cost savings estimates, as we discuss options and make decisions.

Thank you for your dedication and service to Missouri S&T. These are not easy times for higher education but your commitment to our mission, especially during these challenging times, is highly valued and appreciated. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss the concerns you shared as well as the challenges the UM System faces together.

Sincerely,

Julia G. Brncic, Chair, UM System Board of Curators

Michael A. Williams, UM System Board of Curators