**** October 15, 2018

TO: Lynn Johnson, VP University Operations

CC: David Bradford, Director of Parking and Transportation Services

CC: Rick Miranda, Provost and Executive Vice President

CC: Alan Rudolph, Vice President for Research

Dear Ms. Johnson,

On 16 September 2018, we were informed of the decision to move parking at the Foothills Campus under the management of CSU Parking and Transportation Services and to require students, staff, and faculty to purchase an annual parking permit beginning Summer 2019. The rationale cited was the need for funding to improve parking areas and roads on the Foothills Campus.

We strongly object to this proposal for several reasons:

1. Unlike the Main Campus, the Foothills Campus is remotely located. Students and staff are unable to rely upon public or University transportation, because research requires access to labs outside of normal working hours. Researchers must provide their own transportation.
2. There is a great disparity between the facilities on the north part of the Foothills Campus (off LaPorte and Vine Streets) and the facilities on the Main Campus. Rotten pipes, interruptions in the electrical supply, overheating, roof leaks, etc. often interrupt research activities at the Foothills Campus. There are also disparities between South and North Foothills Sub-Campuses. Power lines to the LaPorte section still remain above ground, leading to short-duration power outages that impact experimental and computational work. The improvements being considered for the South Foothills Campus (a new vector-borne research facility that has been approved for funding and initial conversation around expanding BioMarc) have no impact on the activities in or condition of facilities in the North Foothills Sub-Campus, which arguably houses the vast majority of graduate students at the Foothills Campus.
3. Considering all of the facilities aspects needed to conduct advanced research, the state of the parking lot *is the least urgent and necessary* – what matters much more is the quality of the buildings and laboratories.
4. There should be incentives to attract students and staff to work in such facilities. Charging them for parking will have the unintended consequence of penalizing research activities that bring substantial prestige and funding to CSU. Disincentivizing undergraduate students to make the trip to the Foothills Campus, during their busy school weeks or summer breaks to work with world-class researchers as part of their undergraduate experience, will contribute to depriving numerous students of such research experiences, which is a major goal of a research university and considerably enhances our national reputation.

Particularly in the summer, there has been no alternative to reach the North Foothills Campus except by bicycle, an option chosen by many but that excludes differently-abled students and staff. At least two REU Programs and an RET Program have been run out of the North Foothills Campus for over ten years, attracting students and middle / high school teachers from across the U.S. to conduct research.

Although we support the initiative to improve the facilities at the Foothills Campus, charging students and staff to improve the parking lots is not the right place to start, particularly without major commitments comparable to investments made on the Main Campus infrastructure and to a sub-campus that houses some of CSU’s most prestigious and iconic research programs. We urge University leadership to take a deeper view of the impact of such a decision on research productivity and educational activities. We petition that undergraduate students, graduate students, and staff could continue to park in these locations without charge.

Regards,

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