



**Resolution (Number 2023-1) for Maintaining Stability and Long-term Sustainability in the  
University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences (UToledo COMLS)**

Final discussion by COMLS Council: 06/02/23

approved: 07/21/23

- WHEREAS UToledo COMLS is an esteemed institution recognized for its exceptional commitment to medical education, groundbreaking research, and outstanding healthcare services to the community. COMLS faculty are proud members of The University of Toledo, which is a public research university and academic medical center whose mission is to educate students to become future-ready graduates, cultivate leaders, create and advance knowledge, care for patients and engage our local, national and global communities;
- WHEREAS UToledo COMLS faculty are strongly committed to upholding UToledo’s mission, vision, and values, they serve this institution with dedication and expertise, actively contributing to the University's established values of academic excellence, research and innovation, integrity, efficiency and effectiveness, and community engagement;
- WHEREAS many higher education and healthcare entities across our nation are facing significant budgetary challenges;
- WHEREAS data from the ARGOS Census Report Fall-to-Fall Student FTE (Fall 2017-Fall 2022) demonstrates that the total 5-year FTE decline in enrollment across all UToledo Colleges was 24.37%, UToledo COMLS enrollment remained stable, accounting for only a 0.91% five-year decline in enrollment;
- WHEREAS on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, during our COMLS Faculty Council meeting, we were informed by the UToledo COMLS Dean of a memo from the Office of the Provost, dated April 19, 2023, “RE: FY24 College Target and Budget Guidelines,” requesting that COMLS be responsible for covering a Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget reduction of \$5,837,968 and a FY23 budget reduction of \$683,010, for a total budget reduction of \$6,520,978, equating to 40% of UToledo’s academic affairs budget reduction;
- WHEREAS the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) requires shared governance implementation as an integral part of the accreditation status of UToledo COMLS;
- WHEREAS the proposed budget reductions threaten the UToledo COMLS’s LCME and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accreditation



status and will have negative consequences for the continued success of the UToledo COMLS faculty, staff, and learners (including students, residents, and fellows), as well as significant negative impacts on the COMLS teaching, research, and patient care missions;

WHEREAS UToledo COMLS has demonstrated fiscal responsibility, as evidenced by a budget surplus of over \$1,700,000 in FY22;

WHEREAS UToledo's Budget Modernization Plan (e.g., Responsibility Center Management [RCM] or Incentive Based Budgeting [IBB]) has not allowed for revenue-generating units to be wholly responsible for managing their own revenues and expenditures;

WHEREAS the University of Toledo has yet to implement a policy that encourages and incentivizes responsible utilization of funds at the conclusion of the fiscal year, which has a profound impact on financial accountability and resource management;

WHEREAS the Office of the Provost's "FY24 College Target and Budget Guidelines" memo, dated April 19, 2023, *prohibits* Colleges from using revenue offsets or one time budget items to meet proposed budget reductions;

WHEREAS incentivizing revenue generation in response to the University of Toledo's current financial situation would safeguard the long-term health of our institution;

WHEREAS the UToledo COMLS Dean has outlined a summary of COMLS budget reductions and has presented these budget reduction to COMLS Faculty in order to "assist with university budget planning and closing the budget gap for FY24, Academic Affairs and the FY23 bridged budget gap," as requested by the Office of the Provost. While these reductions should not immediately imperil accreditation, they carry real world consequences including loss of resiliency, loss of career development opportunities, increase in burnout, erosion of COMLS faculty morale, decreased ability to recruit and retain COMLS faculty, and a negative impact on the mission, vision, and values of our institution;

WHEREAS the University of Toledo in accordance with state law is finalizing the current FY24 budget and must attain a balanced budget;

WHEREAS maintaining confidence in the stability and long-term sustainability of UToledo is of utmost importance for COMLS faculty;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the UToledo COMLS faculty respectfully request that the President and University Administration carefully reconsider the proposed COMLS budget reductions and limit these reductions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UToledo leadership adopt the strategy of exploring innovative ways to diversify revenue to offset budget reductions and allow all UToledo COMLS revenue to cover the UToledo COMLS portion of any budget reductions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future COMLS budget reductions be fair, equitable, and directly linked to student enrollment changes and faculty performance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UToledo adhere to a Budget Modernization Plan that allows for revenue-generating units to be wholly responsible for managing their own revenues and expenditures, thus incentivizing revenue generation and preserving the critical infrastructure of revenue generating units;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UToledo should implement a policy that encourages and incentivizes responsible utilization of funds at the conclusion of the fiscal year, which has profound impact on financial accountability and resource management;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UToledo Leadership (e.g., President, Provost, and/or Chief Financial Officer) provide timely financial data about the complete UToledo budget including COMLS, UTMC, and other UToledo Colleges and Administrative units that are affecting budgetary decisions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UToledo Leadership (e.g., President, Provost, and/or Chief Financial Officer) shall directly communicate to the UToledo COMLS Faculty Council regarding the specific plan(s) to implement the actions specified in the above resolution in accordance with the principles of shared governance.