

April 23, 2009

Dear members of the Temple University community:

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees voted today to increase Temple's financial aid resources by \$21 million over the next three years and to keep next year's tuition increase to 2.9 percent. The Board took these important steps and passed the FY2010 budget two months earlier than originally scheduled to assist our students and their families in this unprecedented economic downturn.

The Board's decision creates the largest infusion of funds to financial aid in Temple's history, increasing funding for institutional financial aid by 10 percent each year through FY2012. The FY2010 tuition will rise by the lowest percentage in 13 years, less than half the average annual increase since 2000.

Temple's FY2010 budget is a courageous expression of our core mission of providing access to excellence. In January, we set out to create a spending plan that cut expenses by about 5 percent or \$40 million below the FY2009 budget. Thanks to the leadership of faculty, staff and administrators across the Temple community, we were successful in our goal to present the Board of Trustees with a budget that reduced spending while maintaining the quality of our academic programs.

Most importantly, we have crafted a budget that serves our most important and most deserving stakeholders – our students – by keeping a Temple education more affordable. Without the spending cuts, balancing Temple's FY2010 budget to meet increases in non-discretionary costs (utility rates, benefit costs, contractual salary increases and insurance premiums) and absorb reductions in revenue would have required a tuition increase of more than 10 percent. The increased financial aid resources will greatly improve our ability to help students through the recession when they face greater difficulty qualifying for educational loans.

I deeply appreciate the effort and sacrifice producing this budget required, and I thank all of those throughout the university who helped make the Board's action today possible. I remain confident that Temple University has made the right choices in its FY2010 budget and that we will emerge from the recession stronger for our fiscal restraint and commitment to our students.

Sincerely,

Ann Weaver Hart