

## **Position Statement of the University of Sydney Professoriate on the Proposed Staff Cuts**

The Professoriate of the University of Sydney, represented by the University of Sydney Association of Professors (USAP), wishes to express strong concerns regarding the plan to reduce the number of academic staff, as outlined in a recent email by the Vice Chancellor announcing a new redundancy program and the all-staff meeting on 4 September to discuss this issue. Such a move threatens the diversity and quality of our academic body. The loss of some critical positions would likely take many years, if not decades, to rebuild.

Though of course we recognize the financial issues presented by the current pandemic, we are concerned that the current crisis should not be exploited to justify any move that would have detrimental long-term consequences for the University. Any such argument would, in our view, be deeply flawed.

We believe that a concerted action between University Executive and the Professoriate should be able to find a more suitable solution to the current financial problems, one that would help to stabilize and safeguard the institution's academic future. There are many opportunities that could be pursued, and we believe that the Professoriate can advise on strategic actions to address these problems and should be actively engaged in making key decisions on the University's future.

Sydney, 14 September 2020