April 6, 2021

Patricia A. Morris ’83, Ph.D.
Chair, Saint Xavier University Board of Trustees

Dear Dr. Morris:

We are aware that a group of faculty have set in motion a call for an anonymous vote about President Joyner’s leadership. It is without hesitation that we, as Saint Xavier University leadership, express our full confidence and support of Dr. Laurie M. Joyner.

By all measures, we acknowledge the significant improvements President Joyner has driven since joining Saint Xavier in January 2017. At a time of dire challenge, Dr. Joyner embraced the Board of Trustees’ transformational agenda to renew Saint Xavier as a mission-focused, student-centered and financially-sustainable institution.

Under President Joyner’s leadership, we have improved student retention, stabilized financial aid discounting, increased undergraduate enrollments and steadied net tuition fee revenue per student. These student-first accomplishments have allowed us to continue building affordable, quality educational opportunities as well as reduce institutional debt by nearly half and more than triple the endowment.

In and of themselves, these are remarkable results. Coupled with the educational continuity we have maintained for our students and employment stability for faculty and staff during the disruption caused by the pandemic, these successes become even more notable. Not only have there been no layoffs or furloughs during the COVID-19 response, but for the first time since 2016, eligible faculty and staff have received equity adjustment stipend payments, base salary increases and opportunities for monetary recognition for meritorious contributions.

For all of these accomplishments, we recognize that meeting today’s challenges and preparing for an uncertain future in the higher education sector requires persistent attention, agility, compassion and cooperation. SXU is undergoing a cultural sea change, one that heightens the value of professional accountability. We are called to steward the Mercy educational mission far beyond our own years at SXU. It is a privilege and sacred responsibility to educate students who advance far-reaching positive social impact after graduation.

As recently as March 15, the Board publicly and emphatically reaffirmed its resolve to exercise fiduciary responsibility for ensuring the future of the University. In calling for this vote, these faculty reveal a narrowly focused agenda. Their actions seem to illustrate a concerted effort to ignore the reality. As a tuition-driven institution, financial stability and curricular efficiency are imperative to keeping SXU affordable for the students and families we serve.

We appreciate the Board’s leadership and vision. Saint Xavier University is going in the right direction. We stand together to speak out in full transparency that we remain wholly confident in Dr. Joyner’s ability to continue to carry forward the Board’s charge to move SXU successfully into the future – a future that will be in the best interests of our students, faculty, staff and long-term viability.

Sincerely,

Dan Klotzbach, MBA
Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO

Mike Marsden, Ph.D.
Interim Provost

Bindhu Alappat, P.D.
Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Josh Bogaski-Baugh, M.S.Ed.
Staff Council President

Kathleen Carlson, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Institutional Research and Special Assistant to the President

Jenny DeVivo ‘99, Ph.D.
Executive Director for Mission and Heritage

Dustin Duncan, M.A.
Staff Council Acting Vice President

Maggie Eaheart ‘89, M.A.
Chief of Staff

Gwen George, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Brian Hill, Ed.D.
University Fellow

Brian Hotzfield ’99 ‘10, MBA
Assistant Vice President, Strategic Enrollment Management

Allison Kern, B.A.
Director of Athletics

Molly Maley-Gaik, MBA
Chief Information Officer

Erin Mueller, M.A.
Associate Vice President for University Advancement

Deb Rapacz, M.S.
Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Gina Rossetti, Ph.D.
University Fellow

Mark Rosenbaum, Ph.D.
Dean, Graham School of Management

Sue Swisher, B.A.
Executive Director of Financial Aid

Katy Thompson ’99 ‘03, M.A.
Dean of Students

Julia Wiester, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Vice President

Karen Wood ‘76, DNSc, RN, CCRN, CNL
Faculty Senate President