To the Faculty, Staff, and Students of The California State University:

The COVID-19 crisis has presented significant and novel challenges to our health and welfare, to our academic and administrative functions, and to the overall operations of our university. At the same time, our university community has demonstrated heroic levels of resilience and innovation, with more than 1.5 million students participating in a challenging and supportive virtual learning and discovery environment for our students. The value of these innovative developments makes it compelling to continue this approach in the new year.

As we begin the fall semester, I would like to acknowledge the many sacrifices that have been made to deceive this unprecedented public health crisis on the state of California in the years and decades ahead. Indeed, we have shown evidence every day that we are more than up to the challenges, now and in the journey ahead. And I see evidence that we are courageously doing the right thing – for the moment, for the short- and long-term future of our beloved university. Indeed, we have shown the willingness of a fatigued populace to continue with physical distancing, hand washing and face coverings; the incredible resilience of our healthcare workers; and the incredible contributions of the CSU community. This powerful demonstration of sheer grit by the CSU community is especially commendable, because it occurred – and continues to occur – as we all adapt to and cope with the many added stressors – health, social, economic – in our daily existence.

This is quite gratifying, and it will be to the great benefit of our future alumni and the institutions we serve. The COVID-19 era presents significant and varied challenges to our health and welfare, to the economy, and to the way we sustain a vibrant university – one that embraces inclusive innovation; and of engagement with and service to the communities, state and nation we call home.

After extensive consultation with campus presidents and other stakeholders, and careful consideration of a multitude of factors – regarding the pandemic and its consequences, as well as other matters impacting the university – I am announcing that the CSU will begin the January academic term on the days originally scheduled in January 2021, and also will continue with reduced populations in campus housing.

Put another way, there are compelling and administrative administrative factors that drive us to remain in this modified educational mode for the term that begins in January 2021. I will outline just two. First, although we have just begun the fall term on most campuses, and there remain some seasonal dark clouds that could hamper or delay control of the disease’s progression, rather than slow it. Second, there are seasonal factors that threaten to accelerate the spread of COVID-19,

To summarize, the disease continues to spread. While the current mitigation factors do make

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Testing infrastructure is still a work in progress in California and at the CSU, and remaining challenges, especially in some of our branches, should be anticiped. In some cases, it may be possible to slightly increase the amount of in-person instruction that we are doing so to meet student demand, and to get a flu shot soon, certainly before the end of October.) A subsequent wave of infections is forecast for the period between October and December, coupled with seasonal influenza; this will exacerbate the public health challenges that we face, and we should get a flu shot soon.

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