

Dear UH System Auxiliary Colleague:

I value our partnership with our UH System auxiliary services colleagues, and thought it important to share some critical economic updates that are and will continue to impact our on-campus auxiliary services immediately and through the long term. This way, you can help manage expectations for your campus community. We are hearing these concerns from all of our business partners, and from colleagues across the country about these economic impacts. You have likely seen these situations as you shop off-campus, and these impacts are also being experienced by our contract providers.



## **Nation-wide truck-driver shortages are impacting and will continue to impact availability of products on campus.**

*What does this mean for auxiliary services at our campus?* There may be times when a favorite menu item or product is not available in food service, catering, vending machines, or campus retail. We are working closely with our campus business partners and service providers to mitigate and stock popular items as quickly as possible.



## **Nation-wide impacts to the hospitality labor industry.**

*What does this mean for auxiliary services at our campus?* The hospitality labor market (food service, parking, and shuttles) is still re-bounding from pandemic impacts, and there may be times where we are making service adjustments to accommodate schedules and number of employees.



## **Higher shipping costs and impacts of new United States Postal Services standards.**

*What does this mean for auxiliary services at our campus?* You will need to add lead times on orders for specific items such as course materials to account for these disruptions to help meet the campus need for timely goods and services, and accommodate the academic calendar.



## **Shortages of products nationwide (some that we have seen to date include halal chicken, specific beverage types, custom paper, apparel, and drinkware).**

*What does this mean for auxiliary services at our campus?* There may be times when a favorite or desired item or product is not available to our on-campus customers. These shortages are also impacting prices that business partners and service departments are paying for their inventory. These price increases may translate to price increases to individual and departmental customers. We are working closely with our campus business partners and service providers to mitigate and stock popular items as quickly as possible. We are also working to understand the long-term impacts to pricing, in particular for meal plans, menu items, and in-store pricing.