

Personal Note re COVID-19

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To: All Faculty and Staff [REDACTED]; All Students [REDACTED]

Dear Colleagues and Students,

Of late, when you have heard from me it has been in the form of announcements and decisions regarding the status of the COVID-19 threat. And we of course will continue to issue updates as the situation changes, as it has rather rapidly. This is indeed uncharted territory.

But I wanted to pause briefly and relay to you how sorry I am that all of this is happening. I know that it is extremely challenging, and anxiety producing, to have to make so many changes so quickly. However, the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and the entire university community is paramount, so change we must. Please be assured that university leadership is working diligently to make the most sound decisions we can based on the guidelines at hand from the CDC, ADPH, and state and national government. We realize that the difficult decisions that have to be made cause a real hardship on many students and faculty alike.

I deeply regret that we have had to cancel so many campus events and activities, from academic workshops to sporting events to Greek activities to Honors Day to club meetings and more. Professional development for faculty and experiential learning opportunities for students have both been negatively impacted by travel restrictions. I wish it were not so, but it must be done for the greater good.

As difficult and challenging as our current situation is, I am confident that by working together and supporting each other, we will be able to work through it successfully. We must do everything in our power to take care of our students and one another. Our faculty genuinely care about the success and well-being of our students, and our students understand and appreciate the sacrifices our faculty make for them to enhance their career and life prospects, for the most part—I am not being Pollyanna here. While acknowledging that these are indeed trying times, my point is that by staying positive and focusing on the larger goal, we will get through it. Be safe!

With sincerest appreciation to all,

Ken



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