

**From:** Tucker, Ken

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:08 PM

**To:** All Students <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** COVID-19 Update - Credits for Housing & Meal Expenses



## A Message from UWA President Ken Tucker

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Dear Students,

We continue to hold your health and safety as a top priority as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic together. With in-person classes for the semester transitioning to online and on campus activities and events canceled, campus is unusually quiet for springtime. We certainly miss seeing you on campus and interacting with you.

On March 16, we began the transition to all online instruction and learning, with the transition to be complete by April 6. We continue to explore options for helping you face the unexpected challenges that this semester has brought to us all. Most offices on campus are staffed at a minimum level to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and like you, we are working remotely as much as possible to carry out our responsibilities and job duties. We sincerely appreciate your patience as we continually strive to provide the services and care that you have come to know from UWA, with your education, success, health, and safety as our top concerns.

I will continue to remind you that we each play a part in preserving the health and safety of our campus environment, and this is not a time to let down our guard. We urged great caution and advised avoiding travel during spring break to help prevent the spread of the virus. As we approached Spring Break, the general practice was that **any person returning from a region where there was active transmission of COVID-19 should contact the appropriate agency and self-monitor or self-quarantine as needed. We ask that if you travelled to such an area you self-quarantine for at least 14 days away from campus.** With the continued spread of the virus, it is more essential than ever that we adhere to social distancing and only go about the most essential business and tasks.

As you know, campus residences have remained open, with the understanding that not every student has the option to pack his or her bags and leave. This decision aligns with our commitment to serving you, our students, to the best of our ability. We also understand that we serve a region that is largely underserved in terms of accommodations like high-speed internet, which students need to complete courses online, and for this reason we have maintained operating hours for campus facilities that offer such amenities. We will continue to provide accommodations as we are able, but we ask for cooperation and adherence to guidelines set forth by federal, state, and local government, as well as our own campus. Please follow guidance that has been provided to you and do not put your safety or that of others around you at risk.

### **HOUSING & MEAL PLANS**

As a university, we have decided to make the sacrifices necessary to offer credit to students who have already checked out of campus housing and to those who do so by April 6. Credit equal to up to 25 percent of Spring 2020 housing and meal plan charges will be available for students who complete early check out by April 6, including those who have already completed the checkout process since March 16. This credit will be available to those students whose scholarship and/or financial aid did not cover the

cost of housing. This credit may be applied to your account balance for Spring 2020 if you have one, or it may be applied to the Fall 2020 semester.

Students who have already applied for degrees and will graduate this semester will be awarded refunds in an amount up to 25 percent of Spring 2020 housing and meal plan charges for those whose scholarship and/or financial aid did not cover the cost of housing.

Please note that this Housing credit will be extended **only** to those who complete Housing checkout by April 6.

Students who do not live on campus but have meal plans will be credited for up to 25 percent of that meal plan for those whose scholarship and/or financial aid did not cover the cost of meals.

Further details and instructions will be sent to you from Mr. Luther Gremmels, Director of Housing and Residence Life, and I encourage you to respond to his email and any process it outlines in a timely manner.

### **DINING DOLLARS**

Students who have dining dollars still available will see those balances rolled over to the Fall 2020 semester. Students who have dining dollars available and have already applied for degrees and will graduate this semester will be refunded.

### **AS A REMINDER**

The following areas have been closed until further notice: the Fitness Center, the University Cinema, the Julia S. Tutwiler Library, Barnes and Noble, the Campus School, Athletic Training Facilities, Pruitt Gym, and Homer Field House and weight room. The Young Hall Cafeteria is available for take-out orders only. All spring sports and related activities have been cancelled. Commencement has been postponed until a later date during the summer.

Again, we recognize that these are challenging times and COVID-19 has created major disruptions for all of us, but continuing to work together, positively and supportively, we will make it through this daunting period successfully as members of the UWA family. We are all in this together, and we will see it through together. Thank you again for your understanding and support. Be safe and take care of each other.

Sincerely,

**Ken Tucker, Ph.D.**

President

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COVID-19 Updates & Information: [www.uwa.edu/coronavirus](http://www.uwa.edu/coronavirus)

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