

Dear Marauder Family,

In my weekly update last Friday, I mentioned the monumental shifts occurring in how we live and work. While no one could have imagined this level of turbulence in our society, I am grateful for the myriad of ways that our campus is coming together to support our students and each other. I admire the ingenuity and positivity across our campus community as we settle into a “new normal” of teaching, learning and working.

Before I report out on our progress areas from the past week, I want to take a moment to reflect. Undoubtedly, we are all experiencing some anxiety and trepidation in this transition to working remotely. I’ve had my share of technology glitches over the past two weeks and continue to make strides as a tele-worker. Among them were dropped conference calls, a Zoom meeting that froze, and a file that did not transfer seamlessly in Microsoft Team. Patience and trust are crucial, and rest assured that your technology glitches will be fixed promptly, your call will be reconnected, and most important, your colleague on the other end will understand and work with you to smooth out the rough spots. Let me repeat that, patience and trust are keys to our success at this moment.

On Monday, many of our students will start their new experience as e-learners and I recognize this will be a challenge for some of them. The same holds true for many of our faculty who are experiencing remote instruction for the first time. Let’s all be patient and kind with ourselves and others. We’re all in this together, so let’s keep the lines of communication open.

Now let me share with you several new developments about the transition to remote instruction and enhancements to student support that have occurred since my last message.

- Our team of instructional designers led 24 sessions last week and another 25 sessions this week in an effort to help transition our teaching and learning to remote instruction. During the week of March 16th, over 200 faculty members participated in D2L and Zoom training sessions.
- Faculty and administration have worked together on several initiatives to support our students including temporary policies on pass/fail grading, extensions of the course withdrawal and incomplete grade deadlines.
- Advancement launched the new EPPIIC Student Compassion Fund and has already raised over \$7,000 to support our students.
- Staff are working hard to finalize policies and implement the new directives for the reduction of student charges for spring semester and for continuing student employment. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

I would also like to report on several issues supporting employees, ensuring business continuity and our regional community.

- Administrative units across campus completed their Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans for submission to PASSHE.

- Essential and non-essential employees, who have been working remotely, are asked to continue doing so through April 3. For those who are not working remotely, I can report that administrative leave has been extended until April 3.
- A team of representatives from FEMA, PEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers came to campus today to review several of our buildings for possible emergency use by federal or state agencies.
- Our campus has collected inventories of personal protective equipment and other emergency supplies for possible use by our local emergency responders and health professionals.

Let me remind all employees to remain off campus, with the exception of those required to perform life-sustaining functions. If you absolutely need to come to campus for a short visit to retrieve essential educational or work materials, please contact campus police dispatch at 717-871-4357 to facilitate your visit following our safety protocols.

No cases of the coronavirus have been reported on our campus, but we must remain vigilant. It remains vital that all Marauders practice the protective health measures recommended by the CDC and other health agencies to reduce the spread of this virus.

Let me close by reassuring everyone once again that we will, as a community, work together to respond to this crisis and get through it. And, as a compassionate community with a public mission, we will work collaboratively with state and local officials as well as public and nonprofit agencies to support our neighbors. Now, more than ever, we are called to collective action. Be kind, be safe and stay healthy.

With warm regards,

Daniel A. Wubah
President