

301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612-1090

DATE: May 7, 2020

TO: Misericordia University Students and Parents

FROM: Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., President

SUBJECT: May 7, 2020 University Update

As the spring 2020 semester draws to a close, I hope that you all are doing well and performing well on your final exams and end of semester projects and papers. As students, you have adapted impressively to the dramatic changes that have come with the COVID-19 crisis. Our faculty and staff are making every effort to support you, and I know that you will continue to thrive.

What is next for our university? Our summer courses will be held entirely online and are available to you should you need them to advance your studies. Some other summer experiences are likely to be delayed, such as internships and clinical placements. The university is coordinating with our clinical and internship partners to determine when and how they will allow us to safely resume those experiences.

As for fall 2020, it is our **intent to open campus and operate in as traditional a format as is possible**. As there is still uncertainty as to exactly what public health mandates will be in place at that time, our planning group is exploring a number of contingency plans. We will be flexible and agile and prepared to adapt as needed, but our goal is to open campus to students on time in late August.

I want to answer some other important questions that we have received from students and parents. First, refunds on your housing and meal plans are now in process. You should receive them in the coming weeks. Separate and unrelated to your housing and dining refunds, the federal government has provided CARES act stimulus funding to the university that we must distribute as grants to eligible students. Eligible students will be notified and the funds distributed as a separate payment.

Resident students are not yet able to return to campus to reclaim your belongings. We are not permitted to open campus under current government guidelines for travel and business operations. Residence Life has a few models in place to allow for an efficient retrieval of items while protecting the health and safety of our staff and students. You will be hearing from them shortly. As has been said so often during this crisis, we continue to monitor the advice from knowledgeable health officials and government leaders to see when these restrictions will be relaxed.

On behalf of the leadership team, faculty, and staff, I want to extend my best wishes to you and your families. We know this crisis has been difficult. We remain focused on giving you the best experience possible, both now and into what we aim to be a brighter future. Thank you.