

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Like many of you, I was very blessed as a child. I came from a loving home and parents who worked hard. I especially admired my father and how he managed difficult decisions while balancing the needs of his business and commitment to his employees. He never told me how to live and make decisions; he lived, and let me watch him do it. Over my 25-year tenure as President of Midwestern University, I too have had to make many difficult decisions. With a leap of faith, we began our Glendale campus; we carefully studied what new health care professions would fulfill our educational mission to serve the health care community. We met this challenge by opening new colleges and academic programs. We decided to build state-of-the-art clinics, in order to provide our faculty and students with valuable hands-on experience while providing affordable health care to our community. We are honored to have thousands of patients trust our highly skilled team of faculty, staff and students for their health care needs.

Following the COVID-19 Response Team meeting today, March 25, 2020, I made a very important decision with the support of the Response Team; this decision was ratified by the Executive Committee of the Midwestern University Board of Trustees.

Tuition for the Next Academic Year (2020 - 2021)

- I know that many students are very concerned about the cost of their education while facing the uncertainty of how COVID-19 will impact their families. Midwestern University had anticipated a tuition increase in the 2020-2021 academic year to cover the ever increasing cost of maintaining all services on our campuses while facing increased costs from many utilities, vendors and suppliers.
- I am announcing today that all current and incoming students' tuition will not be increased in the upcoming academic year. This means that your current tuition rate remains in effect in the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year.
- The impact of this decision translates to approximately \$17 million dollars less revenue in the upcoming year. It is a very significant sum, but we are confident in our ability to continue the careful management of University expenses and reserves.

What does this mean for Faculty and Staff?

- During this health care crisis, I have often reflected on what is really important to all of us. It is family, friends, and the assurance that we can provide for our loved ones. The freezing of the Academic 2020- 2021 tuition rates does not mean that Midwestern University anticipates any layoffs or reduction in staff. However, we need all of you to help us maintain our mission of academic excellence and to continue to provide excellent services to our students.
- Faculty and Staff benefits will be maintained; these are very important to all of you.
- Faculty and Staff who meet and exceed performance standards will continue to be eligible for our annual merit pay increase program.

- How are we going to maintain our financial solvency? I see this as a valuable opportunity for all of us to review current practices in order to contain costs. I am asking every faculty and staff member to “tighten our collective belts.” We need to look for better ways to streamline expenditures and look for every opportunity to save dollars that can contribute to collective big savings. I am confident we can do this.
- Managers are asked to reduce controllable expenses such as supplies, operation and clinic expenses.

General Announcements

- Many of our lectures are now online. Please know that many lectures were recorded prior to the COVID-19 crisis. If you are listening and participating via computer, please rest assured we do not have any students in lecture halls today.
- Midwestern University has identified one student who tested positive for COVID-19. This Glendale student was out of state until this past week. The student has not been on campus and has not been in any campus building. Our “Contact Tracing Process” includes reaching out to our employee or student who tested positive, and have them provide us names of everyone they came in contact with. Everyone in contact with the affected colleague must go on a 14-day quarantine. We conduct “Contact Tracing” as recommended by the Centers for Disease and Prevention guidelines. If you hear from Ms. Gibson or Dr. Kosinski, please assist them.
- Finally, please remember the Social Distancing guidelines. While this is challenging, think of it as a way to protect each other and our families. We must do this together, but six feet apart.

Today, as you reflect on this “Evening Update,” remember the core values and the guiding principles we have put into action over the past 25 years. Midwestern University has been built on trust and accountability. I am asking all of you to continue to trust each other as we navigate through fearful times.

And, as you spend time with your family and children tonight, remember that your faith and confidence in them will someday be their guiding light.

As my Guiding Light often said, “This too shall pass.” Thanks Dad, I know you’re right!

Be well and know you’re in my heart.

Dr. G.