

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

The past few weeks have been filled with searches. Some of you went on fruitless searches like the quest for toilet paper, Lysol wipes, paper towels and diapers, to name a few. Some of our colleagues searched for answers to unanswerable questions like, when will this be over, how soon can we as a nation “flatten the curve” of the COVID-19 virus and have the financial markets hit bottom?

At Midwestern University we have also been searching. The quest for additional laptops, cameras, teleconference tools, online courses and didactic equipment has been never ending. Each day we have addressed new questions and new quests. I have felt like Cervantes’ Don Quixote caught in fighting never ending windmills of questions and issues. But unlike Don Quixote, we are solving the many issues before us very quickly as we try to reach a new normal for the month of April 2020.

It is on the behalf of all faculty, staff and students that the COVID-19 Response Team meets daily to try to anticipate your questions and concerns and formulate answers. We met today, 3/31/2020 to review the status of many of your questions. The results of today’s meeting are listed below.

#### How healthy are we as a campus community?

- As of today we have no faculty or staff that have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Four students have tested positive. Two on the Glendale Campus and two on the Downers Grove Campus. These students do not live on campus and have been quarantined off campus since the onset of their illness. They are all doing well and recovering quickly.
- As a reminder, if you are a student on a clinical rotation and do not feel safe at your clinical site, please contact your Academic Dean, Program Director or the Dean of Students, Dr. Kosinski. We do not want any student to be uncomfortable at a clinical site and we can take action on your behalf; we will contact your site, look for alternative locations if available or offer you a leave of absence.
- If you are a faculty or staff member, and do not feel safe leaving your home, continue to work from home if you are able. If you cannot, remember to utilize your paid time-off benefits and vacation time. We want you and your family to be safe during this time.
- Please remember to follow the social distancing guidelines. A minimum of six feet apart at all times is recommended. Please honor this recommendation.

#### Information Technology Update

- We have rapidly implemented Microsoft Teams, WebEx, WebEx Integration with Canvas, Pronto Integration with Canvas for group meetings and the Kaltura Video Streaming Service for your recorded classes.
- We have been notified that Kaltura Video Streaming for universities is in high demand. For faculty trying to upload new materials, it is recommended to do this during non-traditional business hours.

- The Information Technology Team, in conjunction with our health care clinical faculty, has already implemented Telehealth for our many clinic patients very successfully.
- I wish to thank all of our faculty, staff and students for the unprecedented willingness and adoption of new technology. It highlights that everyone can learn new systems and new technology when faced with a challenge.

#### Extended Laboratory and Clinical Rotations following the official end of the Quarter

- A number of students have asked two very important questions; “If our classes extend beyond the end of the quarter, do we owe additional tuition?” and “What about our living expenses?”
- Rest assured, any extension of a spring class is part of the tuition you have already paid for the class. Laboratory and clinical experiences may continue following a quarter, but they are part of the class you have already enrolled in.
- We are researching ways to extend financial aid packages for living expenses for any student whose classes need to be held during vacation weeks or over a summer break. Once we have confirmed a process, we will let all impacted students know how this will be accomplished.
- Midwestern University is committed to providing every student with a comprehensive education. Managing this uncharted challenge has taken us time and resources but we are working on everyone’s behalf to find answers.

While searching for answers I found many fulfilling moments. I have great admiration of our COVID-19 Response Team. They are engaged, thoughtful and caring. I am equally impressed with our faculty, staff, and alumni. You have read and responded to my daily Evening Updates. You have become a source of encouragement and support as we try to answer the unending questions, and you have proven that a community united in a mission of excellence never falters, even during times of crisis. As a windmill never strays in search of the wind, we have never strayed away from each other.

Be well.

Dr. G.