

April 29, 2020

Dear Students:

The Leadership Team has been following the many medical reports and scientific predictions about the coronavirus. The consensus seems to be that though the virus is expected to weaken in the summer it will most likely come back just as strong if not stronger in the fall. We, like you, grieve the sickness and loss of life of those we know and love that is occurring as a result of this pandemic. This has been devastating on many levels: physical, emotional, and economic. Rays of light and joy during this time have been the deep connections we have with family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues.

During this global health crisis, we recognize that routines and traditions have been disturbed and it is difficult to make plans for even the near future. In an effort to give our students some ability to plan for the Fall semester, we have made the difficult decision not to gather physically for our Fall semester but instead to hold all courses in the online format. While our highest hope for the school was the ability to gather once again in the Fall semester, realistically, we don't believe that will be possible without potentially putting many of you and your loved ones at increased risk of contracting the virus. We are very disappointed to have to make this decision, but we believe it is the right one to make at this time. We will miss the vibrancy and camaraderie you bring when you are on campus. The Faculty, Registrar, and I are working out the details of the schedule and will make that information available to you in the weeks to come.

Suffice to say that we are eager for a vaccine or a treatment that will allow us at the very least a modicum of assurance that we can begin to recover from this plague and be together for Spring semester 2021. As we continue to readjust our lives to the constraints placed on us for our wellbeing, may the time until we shall meet again be filled with peace, joy, and love.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Lightsey

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*Deus escreve direito por linhas tortas.* - Portuguese Proverb  
"Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien." Voltaire