

Dear students,

So much has happened in the last few days, and I am sure many of you have a lot of questions about how the College is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of today, following guidance provided by the Bremer County Health Department, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Centers for Disease Control, the College will continue to offer in-person classes for the foreseeable future.

However, after gathering the advice of faculty and staff, I have decided to cancel all international and domestic Tour Week, May Term, and service trips, as well as any other faculty-led overnight domestic travel, excluding athletics (where we will work with the American Rivers Conference and NCAA to ensure the safety of all players and coaches) effective April 18, 2020. It pains me to say this to you, for I believe that those trips provide some of the most powerful learning opportunities you can experience.

Nevertheless, we must respond prudently to the spread of the new coronavirus and the disease it causes, COVID-19. While this virus seems not to pose a serious threat to many young adults, it does seem quite dangerous to older people and those with compromised immune systems, and we must do our part to slow the spread of the disease, enabling our health care professionals to respond effectively to emerging new cases. Furthermore, we see substantial risk that one of our travel groups might find themselves in a location experiencing a mandatory government-ordered shutdown or quarantine.

The faculty, with the support of the College, will work in the coming days to develop substitute courses and other experiences that provide appropriate learning outcomes for the affected students. The College will ensure that affected students have the academic support necessary to stay on track for timely graduation. The College also will do all in its power to recover money that has already been paid to other parties and to refund that money to the student's account. We cannot guarantee that we'll recover every dollar, but we will do our very best. To that end, we will not hold any outstanding May Term charges against students when registering for classes or housing for the 2020-21 year.

As you can imagine, the situation is fluid, and we won't be able to answer all of your questions immediately. I promise that we will be sharing information as we have it. Dean Kittle will continue to work with Stephanie Newsom and the response team to keep the campus informed of appropriate measures we can take to enhance our health and safety on campus; Dean Ernsting and the faculty will work diligently in coming days to adjust the academic schedule to serve our students as well as we can in these circumstances.

Bear with us, please, as we work through this situation. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of us—Deans Kittle and Ernsting, Stephanie Newsom, or me—if you have questions or concerns. We may not know the answers immediately, but we'll respond as well as we can. The College also has created a [coronavirus informational site](#) with

helpful links and updates. As always, we will continue to monitor this situation and will provide updates as available.

Sincerely,
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