

Letter to Campus Community

March 15, 2020

This has been a challenging Spring Break for our nation and for the UMHB community. As you were notified on Thursday, March 12, Spring Break has been extended through this week (March 16-20).

There have been a number of significant events that have transpired in regard to the COVID-19 outbreak in the past 48 hours, and UMHB is continuing to closely monitor the situation. We are also continuing to follow the guidance from public health officials at the local, state, and national levels.

We are actively discussing the University's best course of action for the period immediately following our extended Spring Break. We will do everything we can to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff; achieve continuity of academic student progress and University operations; and do our part to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

For our students:

We are working as quickly as possible while still being thorough to provide answers to the two most pressing questions we know you have: **“How will we complete our Spring academic courses?”** and **“When can we return to campus?”**

We are committed to ensuring the academic progress of all UMHB students, and it is our goal to return to normal operations as soon as it is prudent to do so. The University is committed to making these decisions in a responsible way. Due to rapidly changing conditions, for now our plan is to make decisions incrementally.

Completing Spring semester academic courses:

- **Plans for the week of March 23 will be posted on the UMHB website no later than noon on Thursday, March 19. Please continue to check your campus email and www.umhb.edu as your primary sources of UMHB information.**
- **It is important to note that current online programs will continue as originally scheduled beginning Monday, March 16. This includes MyWay at UMHB as well as graduate Business, Education, and EXSS online programs.**
- We are making good progress in determining the next steps that the University will take to help you complete your Spring classes. It is likely we will move to an online format for delivery of academic courses for at least a couple of weeks.
- As a reminder, since March 16-20 is an extended Spring Break for students, no classes will meet and no assignments will be due, other than those due for fully online programs.
- We are in communication with the Department of Education and accrediting agencies, and will follow their guidance for any modifications of study.

Returning to campus housing and other campus facilities:

- **At this point, it is unclear whether students can return to campus after the extended Spring Break. Given the rapidly changing conditions, we will also announce that decision no later than noon on Thursday, March 19.**
- Dr. Brandon Skaggs, Vice President for Student Life, will send students who reside on campus a separate email soon regarding how the university can assist if they need to retrieve clothing, medication, or other personal items from campus housing.

We will continue to communicate regularly with the UMHB community. These are unpredictable circumstances, and conditions are changing daily. While we continue to pray and hope for the best outcome, we must certainly prepare for challenging conditions in the days, weeks, and months ahead. I am confident that as a strong CRU family, we will successfully navigate this unprecedented challenge together.

Randy O'Rear, President