



COLLEGE OF  
**MOUNT SAINT VINCENT**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Faculty, Administration, Staff and Students

From: Charles L. Flynn, President

Date: April 15, 2020

Subject: Update 10 regarding Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19

Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators:

I hope you and those you love are well. We have learned of many instances where that is not so. Please know, not only that we care, but also that we will do everything we can do to accommodate extraordinary needs.

We should all be thankful for and intensely proud of the resilience, goodwill, and grit with which you all have responded to the demands this disaster is placing on us.

There are many new updates on the status of the College.

### **Helping Others**

The College was asked to provide housing for healthcare workers from Montefiore Hospital, who are working long shifts to meet extraordinary demands of caring for the sick. Residence life, Facilities, and Operations worked quickly to empty and clean rooms on two floors of Mastronardi Hall to accommodate this need. We provided separate building access to these essential healthcare workers to keep our on-campus students and employees safe. Since the pandemic seems to be cresting earlier than expected, we do not know if Montefiore or Westchester or some other entity will need to use our space, but we will meet whatever we can to help.

### **Outside the Classroom Online**

The Student Government Association, members from our 40+ clubs and organizations, our student athletes, and various offices including Student Activities, Campus Ministry, and Oxley have taken the initiative to engage students and prospective students online. I think we should be proud of this, too. Please take a look:

[View the interactive calendar here.](#)

## **Registration for the Fall and Summer Sessions**

Registration for the Fall semester runs April 14-23.

The Summer Session course schedule is being published online.

Any student who is unsuccessful in a course they are taking during the Spring 2020 term will receive a 50% COVID-19 Grant to help them retake the course over the Summer 2020 session.

## **Admission**

Admission recruitment continues to be promising, although it is difficult to predict the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our prospective students and their families. We hope to hold in-person Accepted Student events later this summer, and plans for later-than-usual Orientation and Welcome Week activities are underway.

## **Summer Session**

We are creating a special financial aid appeal process for students whose families have suffered financially as a result of the pandemic, and will do all we can to assist those who need additional resources to enroll this fall.

## **Some Good News**

We have been approved to resume construction of Aquino Hall, provided that the workers maintain social distancing and other COVID-19 safety protocols.

## **Also Good News**

Through the advocacy of Senator Alessandra Biaggi, the College has received a \$500,000 grant toward the renovation of the Library. On top of already raised and designated funds, we hope to make significant progress toward the comprehensive renovation of the second floor as a learning commons—offices for academic support, soft seating, small group study spaces, and new (working) AC.

## **Budgetary Impact**

The College continues to look ahead with confidence, but we are facing many serious challenges. Our current estimate projects some \$12+ million in lost revenue through the balance of this academic year and into next. That is a lot of money. On the other hand, savings are few, and the costs of serving our students well—even remotely—have increased.

To reduce unsupportable levels of expense, we had to make some difficult and painful personnel decisions. We have had to furlough a significant number of people across the College. We are doing what we can to lessen the impact of the furloughs on staff and administrators. The \$600 CARES Act supplement to unemployment insurance should help. But the College is also continuing to pay the College portion of health insurance benefits for individual employees and their families for up to six months. That commitment significantly reduces the College's savings, but it can at least remove one important source of anxiety that unemployment brings.

We will bring back furloughed workers as soon as we can, probably in waves.

## **Revenue**

While it is difficult to anticipate whether the revenues from the types of activities and events listed above will return quickly, we are seeking funds to off-set our losses.

A trustee and his wife have stepped forward with extraordinary generosity. They have pledged \$500,000 to the College, and have challenged other trustees, alumni, and friends to match their generosity. Every unrestricted dollar given by alumni, employees, friends, trustees, corporations, or foundations that exceeds the donor's level of giving in past years will count toward the challenge.

Our trustees and alumni are very generous. In some ways it feels difficult to turn to them when the pressures on them (and everyone) are so great. But isn't it always true. Whenever we face adversity, who can we turn to beside family and friends.

We are working to secure funding allocated through the CARES Act, as well as through FEMA disaster relief funds and the SBA Coronavirus loan program. Plans are in development to use these funds to assist our students and help the College deal with the impact of our lost revenues.

## **Fall Semester**

The College plans to reopen as scheduled this Fall. There is concern that the virus may reappear during the year. We are developing protocols and contingency plans to address this possibility. South Korea offers a model for effectiveness. The virus has not spread widely there, and colleges and universities continue their work uninterrupted. The first lesson from South Korea is the old Scout motto: "Be Prepared." We will be.

Be well. Stay safe.