

Subject: Thanks

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 2:59:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Tim Hynes

To: Tim Hynes

CC: Tim Hynes

Dear campus community:

These are uncertain times, and I want to thank you for your individual efforts that are keeping the university and our students moving forward. Thank you for supporting our efforts to allow our students to continue learning, even as the majority have physically left campus. Thank you for continuing to support the operations of campus—to make certain that buildings and grounds are clean, that faculty and other campus citizens can get support for their continued work and that new classes of Lakers will be recruited to join the Laker Nation. Thank you for providing answers to questions about next steps for an office, a program, a division and the university in general, even if you are working remotely.

I would love to say that we have the time and date for when we will get back to business as usual. I would like to say that, but I can't. But in these uncertain times, I and other leaders on campus will remain steady in our efforts to share what we know with you. And what we do know at present is that nearly 50 department heads, deans, directors, vice presidents and others are meeting by Microsoft Teams daily to update the status of work in academics, enrollment management and student success, student health, residence life, public safety, communications and other areas that support the continuity of our work. This collective work has allowed us to open the second session online courses on time and to begin delivering instruction for our full session courses online.

I'm excited to share that over 98% of our students have already logged into D2L to access their courses. You will likely see posted on our university web site details of our refund plans for students whose residence hall time has been cut short, and whose ability to use campus facilities and labs has been interrupted. At the beginning and end of each of those sessions, I am gratified and remain grateful for efforts which continue to create the conditions in which we will remain strong.

For now, please follow the advice of the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health. Maintain social distance of at least 6 feet. Wash your hands often for 20 seconds at a time. (NPR offers several suggestions for 20 second singing <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/03/17/814221111/my-hand-washing-song-readers-offer-lyrics-for-a-20-second-scrub> Avoid touching your face. Go outside and try some exercise if you have a chance. We intend to share more messages in the coming days, but for now, stay safe and well, and a sincere thank you for being part of Laker Nation.

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"Dreams Made Real"
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