SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Dear Marauder Family,

While the spring semester may still seem far away, it is just around the corner from a planning perspective. Hence, I want to provide an update on our scheduling plans. These plans were made in consultation with my Cabinet, our Incident Management Team (IMT) and discussions with faculty, staff and students. The decisions are based on the information we have available at this time—including university case numbers, our mitigation efforts and the regional and national COVID-response landscape. We have remained agile since the early days of the pandemic and will continue to do so in the days ahead. While unlikely, our plans for the spring semester may change if necessitated by significant changes in any of these areas.

The spring semester will begin on Monday, January 25 and will run straight through until Friday, April 30. Monday, May 3 will be a Reading Day with no classes, followed by finals from Tuesday, May 4 through Friday, May 7. There will be no spring break. The instruction modality will be similar to Fall 2020, with majority of courses offered remotely. Experiential courses will be taught in person or hybrid modality. There will also be additional, case-by-case opportunities for faculty to offer synchronous, remote instruction using camera-equipped classrooms.

I know that we are all eager to return to a campus life that resembles our pre-pandemic normal. I miss having the opportunity to interact daily with faculty, staff and students in person. I miss sharing ideas, joys and accomplishments with the casual closeness to which we were accustomed. I also recognize that our efforts to keep campus density low is one of the main reasons that we have been able to keep our community case numbers manageable this semester and offers the best and safest path forward.

The success of this approach relies heavily on your continued adherence to campus health and safety guidelines. Thank you for continuing to use face coverings, limiting the size of gatherings and practicing social distancing. A special thank you to the IMT for their guidance and to all our faculty, staff and students for your strength, resilience and resolve.

Be kind, be safe and stay healthy.
With warm regards,

Daniel A. Wubah
University President