MSUM Students,

Our faculty and staff are working tirelessly to ensure that you remain healthy and safe as you pursue your academic goals and complete this semester.

I know that the actions taken to ensure your health and safety also bring waves of disappointment. Canceled trips and performances. Athletic seasons incomplete or canceled altogether. And the loss of in-person connection with your Dragon Family.

Yesterday, the Minnesota State Chancellor made the difficult decision to cancel spring commencement ceremonies across the system. We don’t take these decisions lightly. As the capstone celebration of the college experience, commencement is one of our favorite days of the year. Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control made it clear that large gatherings won’t be recommended for the foreseeable future. Making the decision now gives families time to cancel the plans they may have made to travel to campus. While we don’t know, yet, how we will celebrate commencement, know that we’ll be discussing options once the semester resumes.

Even as we grieve the loss of on-campus experiences, the necessity of finding new ways to stay connected is bringing out so much creativity in the Dragon family.

**Your classes.** You will be hearing from your faculty by the end of the week how they plan to modify their courses to ensure you can complete the semester.

**Advising.** Advising for Fall semester will begin on Monday, March 23. Your advisor will be reaching out to schedule an online appointment.

**Campus services.** Many of our campus services that you would normally experience face-to-face are finding unique ways to bring services to you virtually. For the safety of our staff, many buildings will be closing and offices will be available by appointment only. Here are a few campus services that have gone virtual this week (watch for more examples soon):

- **Library.** The library building is now closed to visitors. Library services continue to be available virtually including reference service, access to databases, and interlibrary loan. Visit the [Library’s LibGuide](http://example.com) with links to library resources, hours and other information. The library is available for questions. Contact the library at refdesk@mnstate.edu or Text a Librarian at 218-258-0009. Follow the library on [Twitter](http://twitter.com) and [Facebook](http://facebook.com). We plan to keep our
computer labs open and are making plans for ensuring the health and safety of students who use the labs. Our plan will be shared before classes resume.

- **Wellness Center.** The Gerdin wellness facility is now closed to visitors. The Recreation & Wellness team will be offering select online services that students and members can access remotely until the facility can re-open. Follow the wellness center on Instagram and Facebook for wellness tips and motivation.

**Housing & Residential Life.** Our residence halls remain open at this time and we are working on a process and timeline for students to move home or to other off-campus locations. We will also develop a plan for students who need to continue living on campus for the duration of the semester. These plans will be communicated directly with students living in our residence halls.

**Financial impacts.** We understand that the above changes raise many questions about the financial impacts to students. We are working to mitigate the costs and minimize the financial burden to students and families. More information will be coming soon.

There are many more plans in progress and we will continue to update you as we know more. Remember, the latest information is always posted on our website: [mnstate.edu/emergency/covid-19](http://mnstate.edu/emergency/covid-19). And, you can direct your questions to covid19questions@mnstate.edu.

With Dragon Pride,

Anne