Students,

I’m writing to update you on the University’s planning related to the COVID-19 virus. At MSUM, we are working closely with the Minnesota State system office to monitor the developing situation about the impact of COVID-19 and taking steps necessary to protect the health and safety of our students, our faculty, and our staff. I will serve as the primary contact on our campus and will update the campus community via email.

Late yesterday, the Minnesota State system office published a website with updates about COVID-19. You will find the latest guidance about Minnesota State policy and FAQs, which will be used to keep you updated as we monitor the impact of COVID-19. Of particular note:

- **No end date to travel suspension.** The suspension of all international Minnesota State-related business travel for students, faculty, or staff does not have a specific end date and the suspension policy is being reviewed on a recurring basis. Given the circumstances, anyone with Minnesota State-related international travel planned for the future should be in contact with their carriers and destination or hosts on cancellation or change polices and alternatives or options.
- **Students will be refunded any money prepaid to the University for canceled trips.** The University will work to secure refunds and will absorb the costs of any fees that cannot be refunded.

Please remember anyone in the U.S. who has not traveled to China or been in contact with someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days is at low risk of becoming sick with the virus. Be respectful of all members of our campus community. No actions or language should be directed against anyone based on race, ethnicity, or religion based on the origins of COVID-19.

You can help prevent the spread of the virus by:
- Practicing respiratory (coughing and sneezing) etiquette and washing your hands
- Staying at home when you’re sick

I will continue to send email updates as we know more about the impact of COVID-19. Please send me any questions you have. If you need support, please reach out at any time to the Dean of Students Office. They’re located in Flora Frick 153 or available by phone at 218.477.2391.

Jean Hollaar
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