

## Fw: Grievances and Demands

Wutoh, Anthony K. <awutoh@Howard.edu>

Wed 4/29/2020 2:32 PM

To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>

Cc: Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Dark, Okianer C <okianer.c.dark@howard.edu>; Medford, Edna Greene <emedford@Howard.edu>; Cole, Angela P. <apcole@Howard.edu>

Dr. Alfred,

Good afternoon. President Frederick and I have received several emails similar to the one received below, and wanted to solicit any feedback from the Faculty Senate regarding any response. Feel free to weigh in on any aspect, and particularly the areas pertaining to instruction. I have deleted the name of the student, but the emails are from legitimate student email accounts. Thank you.

AKW

"Excellence in Truth and Service"



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**From:** <Student>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 1:56 PM

**To:** Wutoh, Anthony K. <awutoh@Howard.edu>; Frederick, Wayne <HUPresident@Howard.edu>

**Subject:** Grievances and Demands

Grievance 1:

We are asking Howard University to refund a percentage, no less than 25%, of tuition to all students enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester. Notwithstanding the circumstances that caused the switch to online instruction, student's paid for a learning environment that must be adhered to even through times of adversity. Online learning is not equivalent to classroom instruction. However, as students of the Howard community, we do not wish to portray the administration in a negative light, so we have given careful thought to construct a compromise that may prove suitable for all.

Additionally, we propose that Howard create a Coronavirus Relief Fund agency. We suggest that Howard task this agency with raising money for the specific purpose of providing relief to the students affected by the pandemic. The pandemic has destroyed many of the intern opportunities that were available at Howard and has created an unstable working environment for the job seekers of the upcoming graduating class.

The policies of the endowment program within the U.S. Department of Education forbid the use of more than 50% of the fund annually unless during a financial emergency or unusual occurrence. We therefore propose that Howard conduct negotiations with the Department of Education to reallocate \$613 million in federal funds to supplement the Howard community during this time of crises.

Grievance 2:

“Students are entitled to an atmosphere conducive to learning and to fairness and respect in all aspects of the teacher-student relationship.” This quote is taken directly from the Howard University faculty handbook. We understand that extenuating circumstances caused by the pandemic has resulted in reactive changes to the learning environment thereby preventing in person teacher to student instruction. However, we believe that a large number of the professors that traditionally teach lecture based courses have failed to provide a suitable learning environment apropos for the circumstances. We believe a more appropriate course of action would be for professors to use virtual face to face portal applications that would allow for teacher to student lecturing and provide an in-depth explanation of the course.

It is the responsibility of the University to exhort professors to choose the best atmosphere conducive to learning for the students. To that end, we are asking the university to conduct an investigation into the methods professors have chosen to teach their classes in response to the pandemic. We further request that the administration make their findings public for the sake of transparency.

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Best Regards,  
<Student>  
Howard University 2023