

Office of the Provost: Faculty Update

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Office of the Provost



May 1, 2020

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Congratulations on making it to the final stretch of a very eventful academic year! I'm sure that for many of us, the most significant event of the year has been the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact that this global crisis has had on each of us personally, professionally, and as an academic community. I can not thank you enough for your ongoing support and commitment to continuing to provide the highest caliber of educational opportunities for our students. As we continue into finals week, and preparing for the virtual conferring of degrees ceremony next weekend, we have started focusing on Fall, 2020 preparation, and the anticipated mode of instruction for incoming and returning students.

Despite the impact of COVID-19, we have already received over 2,000 seat deposits for the FTIC (First Time in College) Freshman Class of 2024. We have also had a robust response regarding registration for returning students. We realize that while these numbers look encouraging at the moment, continued stress on the economy and workforce may likely impact our final enrollment. Significant thought and deliberation has already gone into what the Fall, 2020 semester will look like, and how we will provide quality instruction to our students.

Earlier this week, President Frederick shared a number of updates including planning for the Fall 2020 semester. I provide the following excerpt from this communication;

“We are planning for a best-case scenario that includes a campus re-open and face-to-face instruction in the Fall 2020 semester. In the event District officials do not relax or end social distancing policies, we will adjust and update the campus community accordingly. To facilitate the planning of this return to in-person instruction, I’ve asked Florence Prioleau, University Secretary and General Counsel, Dr. Hugh E. Mighty, Vice President of Clinical Affairs, Dr. Anthony Wutoh, Provost, and Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, to spearhead a committee that will provide relevant recommendations and guidelines. The committee will also include representatives from the staff, student body, faculty, and local officials and assess the many complex issues involved, including testing requirements, social distancing, athletics, sanitation of the campus, housing assignments, the protection of high-risk individuals, and much more. The most essential ingredient for our combined success will be patience. The prediction of a second wave of infections in the Fall demand that we build flexibility into our plans.”

We are particularly sensitive to these critical decisions given the disparate impact that COVID-19 has had in the African American community. The health and safety of our faculty, staff and students will be the paramount consideration. I have solicited the Faculty Senate to provide representatives to participate in our Fall 2020 preparation committee. Additionally, if you would like to volunteer yourself, please forward your name and indication of your interest to me via email at awutoh@howard.edu.

I look forward to seeing many of you, at least virtually, during the virtual conferring of degrees ceremony next week, as well as the various school and

college recognition programs that will take place. Thank you again for your tremendous support and efforts. God bless.

Excellence in Truth and Service,

Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., R.Ph.
Provost and Chief Academic Officer



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