
Hi all --- As another week closes in the midst of this national and worldwide crisis, which seems to widen in scope each day, I simply wanted to say thank you again.

It is likely to take into May before we begin to have more clarity on the effects of the crisis on Longwood going forward. In its meeting this week, the General Assembly delayed action on budget reductions until it holds a special session in the late summer or fall, but as the spring progresses we will have more insight from Administration officials. Similarly we don't yet know what effect the crisis will have on enrollment for us. Across higher education there is a uniform expectation of a downturn, exacerbated by the massive increase in unemployment nationwide.

The Commonwealth has put together a Covid-19 working group for all of Virginia education, and I am one of the several university presidents serving on it. The group is examining how next school year can best work, K-12 through college. The tough reality is that Covid-19 is not at all likely to be gone, and no treatment or vaccine is yet on the horizon. We and other institutions everywhere are planning for what being sustainably reopened can look like, knowing how crucial that is for students and families.

In light of potential health risks and personal circumstances in this time of Covid-19, the Commonwealth similarly has a variety of resources to be helpful with retirement considerations. Lisa Mooney and our HR Office can be helpful as well.

In normal times, we would be in the rush of the close of the semester and year now --- and for our faculty and students and so many across Longwood that rush feels even more intense now, even if surreal too. The University has been doing remarkable work in the face of this challenge.

We are in this together, and I'll be back in touch again likely in early May. The logistics for a UPC meeting open to the campus community in the weeks ahead are also being finalized.

Thanks deeply,
TR