Dear Colleagues,

We’re all looking for signs these days. One of the most hopeful is the nightly 7pm chorus of people leaning from their windows and rooftops clapping, cheering, whistling, and banging pots for health care workers changing shifts. Those folks are our real heroes now. That chorus doesn’t change the course of the pandemic, but it shows solidarity, and that matters. Meanwhile, in our world at Guttman, what we have collectively accomplished over the past month has been magnificent. I am immensely proud of the way we have effectively pivoted, under duress, to an utterly different way of working while keeping our students’ needs at the heart of our efforts.

The University continues to provide guidance to the campuses. Here are a few of the most important current items.

- **Commencement**: Sadly, all CUNY commencement ceremonies have been canceled. All of us understand in our bones what a blow this is to our graduating students and their families. All degrees WILL be conferred. At Guttman, we will work on our own way of marking our students’ achievements.

- **Spring II**: All CUNY summer academic programs (in our case, the Spring II session) will be conducted via distance learning. I will have more to share about professional development to prepare for Spring II. How we will conduct the Fall 2020 semester remains undetermined at this time. My working premise is that we are unlikely to return to “normal” operations and should plan for that contingency. The University will monitor and follow City and State directives as they evolve. These considerations will also impact how we conduct Orientation and the Bridge program for our Fall 2020 entering students.

- **Credit/No Credit Grading Option**: The CUNY Board of Trustees formally approved this policy, outlined in my March 30 message, for Spring 2020. The full text of the approved policy is attached to this message. Additional implementation guidelines will be forthcoming.

For a complete update of all current University guidance, consult the “Academic Continuity” web page here: [https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/guidance-on-academic-continuity-to-campuses/](https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/guidance-on-academic-continuity-to-campuses/). Please don’t hesitate to ask questions as issues emerge. We will answer when we can and find answers when we can’t. Send questions to Provost@guttman.cuny.edu.

Spring Break formally begins this Wednesday, April 8. Class sessions resume on April 17. Even as you honor the academic break for yourself and your students, please think about ways to sustain connections with them. Unlike every other academic year any of us have experienced, keeping those connections intact matters during this annual spring ritual.

I wish everyone health, safety, and generous time (however mediated) with loved ones.

Howard

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Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs