



*Office of the President*

March 20, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I write to you with an important update regarding the continuation of the remote learning protocol that was successfully launched on Tuesday, March 17. As the COVID-19 pandemic has spread, government and health officials have taken increasingly more aggressive steps to “flatten the curve.” This week, Governor Mills issued a civil state of emergency and prohibited all gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice, mandating the latest U.S. CDC’s guidance on gatherings.

Over the course of this week, I have had numerous conversations with the Cheverus leadership team as well as my colleagues at Jesuits schools around the country, many in the hardest-hit areas of our nation. With the health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff the highest priority, I have concluded that the best course of action is to extend the period for remote learning and cancel all in-person classes until April 24, 2020. The Cheverus campus will remain closed to the public during this time.

St. Ignatius stated in the founding document of the Society of Jesus that a Jesuit must be willing to serve, “according to what will seem expedient to the glory of God and the common good.” Taking this safety measure to extend the remote learning period is done for the benefit of the common good, to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Dr. Moran will be sending a letter shortly that will outline the logistics of the coming weeks. We will continue with remote learning and we will provide the academic rigor, student support, and love for our students that is synonymous with a Cheverus education.

As we end a week that marks a watershed moment in our history, I want to recognize the flexibility, resiliency, and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and families. This has been a tumultuous week. It is one that has upended normalcy, yet clarified what gives our lives the deepest meaning: faith, family, friends, our health, and our community. Thank you for your patience and support.

This is the season of Lent. This year, these 40 days are marked by the coronavirus and uncertainty, but we remain a people of hope. Hope is a virtue that will be a source of strength in a time of need and will bring us together as a people, bound by God’s love. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

For Cheverus,

Fr. Robert J. Pecoraro, S.J.

President