

March 23, 2020

McGovern College students:

Today we had our first day of remote instruction and thus entered our “new world” — temporary, but a new world nevertheless. Your faculty have prepared hard to deliver the instruction you need. No solution will be perfect—and we very much understand that this is an imperfect situation—but we are finding temporary solutions that will allow us to continue to deliver the education that you’ve come to the University of Houston to receive.

I have not heard of significant challenges today that we have not been able to overcome. I think this speaks to the intensity and the thoroughness of our planning last week, and especially the planning on the part of our faculty.

The University of Houston continues to publish information to address the crisis and try to ease the burden on students. I will call your attention to the most recent of these (from this weekend) below. First I will remind you to follow @UHouston on Twitter and @universityofhouston on Instagram, if you aren’t already following. The feeds are very informative and there are answers to numerous questions being posted there.

A few of the most relevant updates from this weekend follow below—all of them from @UHouston on Twitter. Note that many of these address questions that you sent me last week and that we have been discussing at all levels of the administration:

Parking refunds:



University of
Houston
(@UHouston)

[3/20/20, 7:05 PM](#)

Parking and Transportation Services will be issuing partial refunds to all students who have a current UH parking permit to cover the period from March 16 - May 31, 2020, during which classes are not being held on campus. More info: uh.edu/af-university-...pic.twitter.com/VDf7EPXQIf

Housing refunds:



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Student housing will remain open. Residential Life events are canceled through the end of April. Students who choose to move out of their UH residential facility, are eligible for a refund of prorated rent to their fee bill. pic.twitter.com/no7Sws3oOY

Meal plan refunds:



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UH Auxiliary Services would like to extend to you the opportunity to obtain a refund on your meal plan for the remainder of this semester. Follow the steps outlined below if you'd like to cancel your meal plan. pic.twitter.com/NodMIJx3D

There are as well numerous questions about course and lab fees, as well as even more questions about tuition payments. At this time tuition is not being waived or refunded, as instruction is continuing and we will grant credit for the courses in which you are enrolled. However I can tell you that all of these questions are in discussion at the highest levels of the administration, and the university is considering all options. I will communicate more information as it becomes available.

We are also making every effort to address issues surrounding equity and fairness in grading and grading systems. I will communicate more about these issues as information becomes available.

I have continued to receive reports of international students facing difficult decisions on whether to return home. I will again caution you to please consult with the International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSSO) before making decisions. There are numerous ramifications to decisions either to remain in Houston or to return home; many of these ramifications will differ according to individual situations.

Please know that we are continuing to listen to your concerns and that I will continue to answer your questions—understanding that new questions will probably arise as we move into this new phase of remote instruction. I appreciate all the reports I am getting of students actively engaged in instruction with their faculty members in new, alternative format (often by videoconference!). Everyone has been extraordinarily flexible and accommodating during these extraordinary times.

Best wishes and see you tomorrow.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Davis'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Davis
Dean and Professor of Music
Cullen Foundation Endowed Chair