

March 20, 2020

McGovern College Students:

Here's my update for Friday March 20. It's been quite a week here, as I know it has been for all of you. I may hold another update until Monday, but please know that if there is information to share with you over the weekend, I will do so.

Parking and financial information

I have received numerous questions on parking. Please know that these questions are being discussed at the highest levels of the administration. Right now I can tell you the following:

If you are not using your permit and you wish to receive a refund of the fee, Parking and Transportation has a standard procedure, even during times of normal operations, in which students can return their permits for a prorated refund at any time. This procedure is still an option, even now. There is also an ongoing effort by the university to issue refunds and credits for the spring semester, even with students not having to return their physical permits to Parking and Transportation. This option helps if students are planning to attend campus during the summer semester and would like to keep the permit. These options are in discussion, and final decisions will be made soon. I will update you as I know more.

As for refunds of fees and other payments for services that are not being rendered (or not being rendered in traditional formats), the university is considering all options. More information will be available soon.

Library services

Yesterday I updated you on the plans for continuity of services from the Music Library and the Architecture, Design, and Art Library. Our fabulous music librarian Madelyn Washington has asked me to also pass along the following helpful links to you:

<https://weblogs.lib.uh.edu/music/2020/03/19/music-library-provides-remote-services-during-building-closure/> (the music library blog), and <https://www.facebook.com/uhmusiclibrary/> (the music library facebook page).

Technology and software

Many of you have asked about access Adobe Creative Cloud and we have been working to solve this issue. The problem is that as a result of campus closures, student and faculty access to Adobe Creative Cloud in labs and classrooms is not available. Adobe is now providing schools and universities with temporary licenses for at-home access to Adobe Creative Cloud desktop apps, at no additional cost, so students and faculty can continue using the software to work.

If your coursework requires continued access to Creative Cloud and you normally rely on a computer lab for access, you can request a free, temporary Creative Cloud license here: <https://bit.ly/2QzhKDp>. When your license has been approved, you will receive an email with instructions to download and install Creative Cloud on your personal computer.

Thanks to McGovern College IT Director Joe Lazzaro for achieving this solution.

Remember that I sent a link yesterday to a quick-start guide to accessing Microsoft Teams, found online here: <https://uh.edu/kgmca/covid-19-dean-communications/how-to-login-to-teams.pdf>. Teams is the university's preferred videoconferencing software. Not all faculty members will use it for instruction, but many will, and many students have been accessing it.

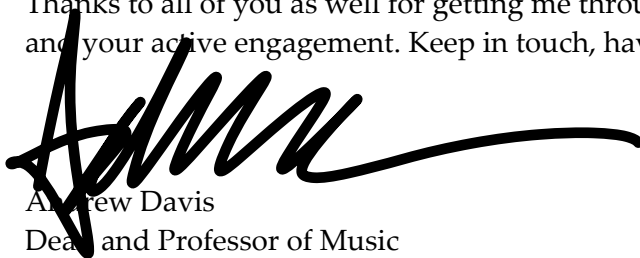
Other items

Please tell me if you have asked me a question this week and I have left it unanswered. I have received many, and I think we have addressed them (or we are working on it), but there may be some out there that I have simply missed.

I'll leave you for the weekend with a few thoughts from School of Theatre and Dance Director Rob Shimko, who sent a message this morning to his faculty and students. I thought it was timely, well conceived, and in exactly the spirit that we all need right now (and note that you can replace his reference in the message to "theatre and dance" with "the arts" and it will resonate with all of us reading the message: "I think what everyone really needs in the next few days is a quiet weekend to try to de-stress a little, to tend to your own lives, and to process what has been happening locally, nationally, and globally. There is a virtue to clear and consistent communication in a time of crisis, but there is also a virtue to letting the noise die down a bit. People in the fields of Theatre & Dance are essentially in the midst of a tragedy right now. And trauma takes time to recover from. So, try to rest. Take care of yourself and your loved ones. Maybe read a book. Take a nap. It's good to know that we are up to speed and ready for the next phase of teaching in these unprecedented circumstances. With that in mind, let's try to unclench for a few days and reconvene, virtually, on Monday."

I will also tell you that every member of our faculty and staff have done a heroic job of getting us through an unbelievable week. If you haven't thanked the Director of your School, or your program director, or your professors, join me in taking a moment to do so! They've all worked around the clock to get us through this and see to it that your educational careers continue, and I deeply appreciate all of their extraordinary efforts.

Thanks to all of you as well for getting me through the week. I have appreciated your messages and your active engagement. Keep in touch, have a good weekend, and see you Monday.



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