March 15, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

This is an update about COVID-19 and its effects on Kenan-Flagler. Some of our faculty and staff received this information on Friday. This email is intended to inform our entire community.

Our immediate goals are to (1) ensure the health and safety of our people, (2) graduate those students who are weeks away from graduation, and (3) continue as much of our teaching, research and service at a high level for as long as possible.

Our ability to meet the third goal—i.e., continue the mission of the School at a high level—will diminish if the campus is closed. So far, we have managed to keep UNC open because, to our knowledge, the coronavirus has not appeared on campus. To lengthen the time until the virus arrives, the University wants to minimize human contact in our buildings.

Thus, Kenan-Flagler is taking the following steps:

**Students (other than doctoral students):** Please do not come to the McColl Building, the Kenan Center or the Rizzo Center for any reason. It’s not that we do not want to see you. Instead, for right now, all of us will have a better educational experience if we separate, rather than congregate in close quarters in our buildings.

If you feel that you must come to the buildings, please contact your respective program and request access to the building. We will consider such requests and respond as quickly as possible.

For those students who are not in Chapel Hill, the Chancellor strongly recommends that you do not return to Chapel Hill if you have anywhere else to stay. I concur. No gatherings larger than 50 people are permitted. All sports and arts have been cancelled. In short, Chapel Hill is no longer the wonderful college town that we all love.

Wherever you are, I encourage our students to be leaders through this crisis. The virus appears to have relatively little impact on young people. However, it is proving to be brutal, even deadly, on our elderly (over 60 years old) and those with compromised systems. As a young person, look for opportunities to lead in your communities, assist those who are more vulnerable, and limit your activities so that you are not a carrier of the virus.

**Staff**: If an individual’s work can be done from home, please work from home. If not, consider rotating personnel or other means of limiting human interaction. That said, some staff may need to remain fully on campus. Please remember that department heads and supervisors make all decisions about working from home; these are not individual employee decisions.

**Faculty and Doctoral Students**: Please work from home, whenever possible.

If/when the virus appears on campus, it is possible—maybe probable—than none of us will be able to enter any of our buildings for any reason. Thus, I strongly encourage everyone to prepare immediately for working exclusively at home.

These are uncharted waters for all of us. Please take care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally. Look out for your neighbor. Everyone is under a great deal of stress. At some time, each of us will experience hardship, frustration and a range of emotions—anxiety, frustration, anger, grief and more.

The situation is fluid and will remain so. We operate under University and UNC System-wide guidelines, so [continue to check the University webpage for guidelines and updates](https://www.unc.edu/coronavirus/). Please carefully read messages from the University and the School.

Finally, I have no doubt that the Kenan-Flagler community will come through this difficulty better than ever. We have already seen tremendous work throughout the School—e.g., IT, the academic programs and facilities. Our community is composed of extraordinary people who will live out our core values throughout this disruption. We will continue to provide world-class education, research and service—whether we are together in our buildings or scattered across our homes. I look forward to hearing amazing stories of the Kenan-Flagler spirit in the coming days.

Be kind. Be compassionate. Be safe.

Doug