March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update: Planning for the Week Ahead

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome back—I hope you’re all doing well, and were able to enjoy your spring break as much as possible given current events. Campus leaders and I have been in frequent communication over the past week, and continue to closely monitor the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. Please know that our top priority remains the health and well-being of every member of our campus community; I hope you will continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones during these difficult times.

Later today, I will be conferencing with the vice presidents and operational leaders to discuss next steps for our campus. As you may know, Governor Hogan has recommended all four-year institutions suspend in-person instruction for the remainder of the spring semester; our team is keeping this guidance in mind as we continue to work with our partners at the Harford County Health Department and the County Executive’s office to determine what’s best for HCC. For this week, we will proceed with our plan of online-only instruction and work-from-home for all non-essential personnel.

As you begin working from home, I want to remind you that OwlNet contains a number of resources to assist in telecommuting and virtual instruction, which can be found on the “Work Life” tab. ITS also sent out a comprehensive email last Thursday (attached) that may be of assistance. There will undoubtedly be some hiccups as we make this temporary transition to an online-only environment; please remember to be kind to yourselves, your students, and your colleagues as we work through these issues.

I plan to have more information to share with you on the path forward by Wednesday. Thank you all for your continued hard work, flexibility, and understanding as we navigate this unprecedented situation. Times may be tough, but I know that we will continue to take care of our students and each other—and that’s what counts.

Be well, and stay safe.

Dr. Jacqueline Jackson
Interim President