



March 13, 2020

To: Wabash College Community
From: President Gregory D. Hess
Re: Wabash to Suspend In-Person Classes for at Least Two Weeks

As all of you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is forcing colleges and universities to alter their operations. Many have chosen to suspend face-to-face classes, others have taken the more dramatic step to suspend residential education. These were undoubtedly careful decisions based on the unique circumstances of each institution.

Over the past week we have worked to develop plans that would allow us to retain as much as possible the unique character of the Wabash College experience, guided continuously by advice and recommendations from our health care professionals, as well as local, state, and federal authorities. Despite our best efforts, we are at the point where face-to-face classes must be suspended for at least the next two weeks through March 27.

We encourage students to remain at or return to their homes for the time being. Our faculty and staff are moving quickly to migrate to virtual classrooms without sacrificing the quality of the student-faculty interaction that is the hallmark of our College. We anticipate that most courses will be ready for virtual delivery on Monday, however some classes may be cancelled during the early part of the week as faculty prepare for these alternative course delivery formats. Students should be looking for email messages from their faculty specific to their courses.

Wabash will continue to operate as a residential college for those students who are unable to go home or who feel that it is in their best interests to remain on campus. We will continue to provide meal service, health care, and support for those students who remain on campus while taking virtual courses.

I want to be clear: No student — including student-athletes — should feel pressured to return to campus. Students who have health conditions that place them at greater risk from infection should definitely not be on campus. Our goal is to do our very best to transition all classes to virtual classroom delivery so that all students will receive the same educational opportunities whether at home or on campus. We will also quickly adjust our student support services and professional development programming to serve both at-home and on-campus students.

Dean Redding will be sending an email to students with further details and logistical information.

We are doing everything possible on campus to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses including:

- Setting the expectation for excellent personal hygiene;
- Increasing the frequency of sanitization of all campus buildings;



- Reducing the total number of people on campus by moving to virtual classrooms, migrating many offices to remote work, canceling public events, and restricting visitors on campus;
- Encouraging everyone to honor greater-than-usual personal space; and
- Isolating or sending home students with any symptoms of illness including those of the common cold.

Our hope is to return to normal Wabash life before the end of the semester, though we know that this suspension of face-to-face classes will last at least two weeks. We ask for your patience, especially in the next few days, as we sort through the logistics of getting our students back from Spring Break travels and helping them navigate to virtual learning.

We continue to adhere to the Gentleman's Rule and set the expectation that students on and off campus will be extra vigilant about hygiene, cleanliness of personal space, social distancing, and limiting interaction as the nation and world tackles the spread of COVID-19. Working together is the only way we will slow its reach.

