

**To:** The OUAZ Student Community  
**From:** President Dennis Tyner  
**Re:** Transition to Distance Learning  
**Date:** 3/16/2020

With the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I have been closely monitoring the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. As we face this unprecedented challenge created by the virus, today I am taking additional steps to protect our students, faculty, staff and community members. The following changes will be in effect through the end of the Spring 2020 semester (May 29, 2020). These modifications affect the Spring Combined, Spring 2 and Spring 3 terms.

- I am cancelling all ground classes on the Surprise campus scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.
- **Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020**, we will be transitioning the instruction of our courses to an online- and/or distance-learning modality. Your courses will meet at their regularly scheduled days and times, but will be taught via Zoom, Blackboard, teleconference, etc. Your instructor will be in contact with you this week via Blackboard Announcements, email, or phone to inform you of the method of teaching she/he will use for the remainder of the course.
- Students already in online courses will experience no change in their method of delivery.
- In an effort to adhere to newly emerging social-distancing advisories, I am encouraging all residential students who are living in university-sponsored housing (Communities on Greenway and Scholars Hall) to vacate their rooms and return home for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. Those who do not have an alternative housing option, however, will be permitted to reside on campus with the approval of the Dean of Students (Alan Boelter).
- For those residential students who have already departed for Spring Break, you should make arrangements with the Office of Student Affairs to collect your belongings that remain in your dorm room/apartment.
- To accommodate those students who remain on campus, our food-service provider intends to continue offering meals until the end of the Spring semester.
- The May 9<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony will be postponed. However, we know how important such an event is to our seniors who have worked so long and hard to enjoy that celebration. We will be identifying an alternative date in the coming months to celebrate the achievements of this year's graduates but current thinking is to move that event closer to the fall term start to honor your achievements and to kick off the new year in special style. Stay tuned for more information on that front.

Although the coronavirus has obviously and unfortunately disrupted our normal daily activities on our campus, we will find our way through all of this and get back to enjoying our exciting and emerging new school. I encourage you to continue to dedicate yourself to your academic pursuits and to take advantage of the opportunity to grow in this regard. We will work hard to stay in touch with you over the next weeks and months as our nation and we navigate these new challenges. We appreciate and value you and look forward to helping all of our students to be successful in all dimensions of their endeavors.

Be sure to take great care of yourselves, your loved ones, and your friends. We will look forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future.

---

—  
Dr. Dennis J. Tyner  
President of OUAZ  
Ottawa University  
15950 N Civic Center Plaza  
Surprise, AZ 85374-7464  
[dennis.tyner@ottawa.edu](mailto:dennis.tyner@ottawa.edu)  
(623) 233-7549 (office)  
(623) 546-4959



**NOTICE TO RECIPIENT:** The information contained in this electronic mail message and in all attachments here to are confidential, privileged and/or proprietary and are intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s). If you are not an intended addressee of this message, your interception, copying, distribution, disclosure or other use of this message, any attachment or the information contained therein is strictly prohibited. If you received this message and are not an addressee hereof, immediately notify the sender by e-mail and destroy every electronic, paper and other copy of this message and all attachments hereto and every digest or other summary of the information contained herein or in any attachment. All e-mail sent to this address will be received by the Ottawa University e-mail system and is subject to archiving and review by someone other than the recipient.