

Covid-19 Response Letter 3/24/20

Dear Unity College,

As we work to pivot so we can support our students and each other, I thought I would provide a brief update on our activities.

The Flagship Faculty are hard at work transitioning their courses and figuring out what additional online communication tools they need. As you know, Flagship classes are set to resume for our students on March 30, 2020 (as our regular schedule had anticipated). I am confident that, even without the time in our physical Flagship classrooms, our faculty's classes will be second to none.

We have assigned Flagship and Enterprise Staff to becoming staff liaisons for Flagship students as we make the transition to online learning. Each liaison will have 35 students they work with, and will be resources for helping make the transition from traditional classroom learning to temporary online learning as smooth as possible. They have already started contacting students and early feedback is quite positive.

This disruption has not negatively impacted Distance Education, as their platform lends itself nicely to present challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has created. In fact, they have seen an increase in inquiries and enrollment in their programs. This is great news for the college as a whole. That being said, they too are working with students whose lives are being affected and I want to thank them for the extra care they are taking to support our DE students.

I know we have a lot going on, but I want to end with a special thank you to the expanded senior staff group of 30 people who meet daily to troubleshoot and cut through obstacles as we move to remote completion of the semester for Flagship: contingency planning for Sustainable Ventures and operational support for DE. We have to address the short-term needs and plan for the long-term readiness for Unity College and I cannot think of a better team I would rather work with.

I leave you all with a quote as we wait to see what unfolds in the coming weeks: *We must become bigger than we have been: more courageous, greater in spirit, larger in outlook. We must become members of a new race, overcoming petty prejudice, owing our ultimate allegiance not to nations but to our fellow women/men within the human community.* (H. Selassie)

In Unity,

Dr. Melik Peter Khoury
President
Unity College