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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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March 11, 2020

Dear UNE Community,

While we are very fortunate at this time that there have been no reported cases of coronavirus in Maine and no reports of UNE students who have been infected, I want to acknowledge the unfortunate hardships that we all are enduring as global citizens and the specific disappointments and frustrations that our students, faculty, and professional staff feel as members of our community during this difficult time.

In addition to the mounting anxiety that we all experience as this outbreak unfolds, for some, the situation has necessitated that they forgo long-anticipated travel courses. Others have been disappointed and greatly inconvenienced by the cancellation of a variety of events and conferences nationwide — or by the inability to travel to them. Some students have experienced interruptions in their clinical site work. Others still have been forced to make very difficult decisions to curtail their travel because of the risk that possible exposure may have to their vulnerable family members at home. All of these lost opportunities are difficult to bear. Please know that I share your disappointments and understand these losses.

With news in recent days that some universities and colleges have closed their campuses in an effort to prevent the further spread of coronavirus, many people in the UNE community are now wondering if UNE will do the same. I want to take this opportunity to tell you that we have no plans at this time to close any of our campuses or curtail any of our classes.

Because UNE has many health profession programs in which students are required to complete specific academic requirements in order to progress from one milestone to the next, we are committed to doing everything we can to safely enable our students to receive the education that they came here for — and within the time frame that they intended. Many students have already sacrificed important opportunities for the sake of public health, and we must take very seriously any decision that may ultimately impede their ability to access their educations and to progress toward the professional goals for which they have worked so hard.

At the same time, the situation is highly dynamic and fluid, and we may need to take additional measures in the coming days in order to keep our community safe. Although we do not intend to modify our academic calendar or instructional delivery methods at this time, I cannot guarantee that this will not change should circumstances require it in order to protect the wellbeing of our community. Please know that the UNE coronavirus response team continues to meet daily to discuss the ongoing outbreak and that we are

carefully considering the impact of this situation on all aspects of the UNE community. The University is taking all reasonable precautions to continue normal operations while also preparing to do whatever is required to keep our community safe. We will continue to update you on a regular basis, and we encourage you to check the UNE alerts page at [une.edu/alerts](http://une.edu/alerts) for additional information.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable spring break.

Sincerely,

James D. Herbert

*President*