March 27, 2020

Dear Students,

I hope you are doing well. Though it is a challenge, I am managing to “stay calm and carry on” and encourage you to as well.

I find that frequent communication is helpful these days, so I am sending this email to you for that reason. Below is some important updated information on how Academic Affairs is working to support your success this semester.

**Pass / Fail Option Available Starting April 13**

The college has modified several grading policies in order to hold you harmless for the disruption caused by COVID-19. Students will be allowed to select Pass/Fail for their undergraduate courses after discussing the implications of this with their advisor. The Pass/Fail option is not available for graduate courses.

Your academic advisor will provide guidance on issues such as graduation honors, minimum grades in professional programs, graduate school applications, course transfer, and GPA calculations. You will have the option to select Pass/Fail up to one day after final grades are due at the end of the spring 2020 semester or you may select to keep the letter grade option.

**Course Instruction Launching From Moodle**

As you are likely aware, we are continuing course instruction using Moodle as the preferred launching point. If a course instructor has not yet communicated with you about how the course will proceed, please email your instructor or request help on Cardinal Star by raising the “I have a question about remote instruction due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak” flag. You can access this through MyPlattsburgh on the website or email CardinalStar@plattsburgh.edu to learn more.

**Academic Dismissals Suspended for Spring Semester**

Academic dismissals will be suspended for the spring 2020 semester. Students whose cumulative GPAs fall below a 2.0 will automatically be offered reinstatement on academic probation with participation in academic support programs in the fall. Students who opt not to return on probation will be allowed to withdraw rather than be dismissed.

**Course Structure May Change**

Your course structure might have changed as faculty have moved courses to remote instruction. Faculty approaches to remote instruction vary and will likely be modified as both you and the faculty gain experience with Moodle and remote instruction. Please be patient. Faculty have been encouraged to make sure changes in the course assignments and requirements are equivalent to those of the face-to-face course.

**Academic Advising Begins Next Week**
Academic Advising will proceed as scheduled, although it will be done remotely. You have received guidance from the Academic Advising office in a previous email. Additional information can be found on the [Remote Course Advising website](#).

Above all, if you have questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact your advisor or other faculty or staff member. We also encourage you to request assistance or seek services using Cardinal Star.

We are all doing our best to assure your success in your courses. SUNY Plattsburgh is fortunate to have a very skilled faculty and staff committed to your successful completion of your courses and your program. I will be in touch again soon with further updates regarding any changes in college policies.

Dr. David Hill  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs