March 23, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Earlier today I wrote to our students, many of whom are uncertain and fearful of the future. I thought it important to reach out to them this first day after spring break.

It is important I reach out to you as well. With each of our lives and routines disrupted, we are still keeping our students first in our minds. This is commendable, and I am grateful to each of you.

I stressed to the students how we are working through this together and it is unfamiliar territory for each of us. I shared with them how their faculty have been working incredibly hard to format their classes to remote, distance learning modes. I also wrote how staff have been assisting them at extraordinary levels.

As we go, this work will not be perfect. I ask for your patience, flexibility and understanding, as I asked for theirs. At the moment, no one's lives are normal or routine. The adjustments to courses and methods are simply easier in some disciplines than others. This first week especially will have skips and bumps on the road. I trust that these will be worked out as we go.

Some across the country have dubbed this the asterisk (*) semester. The disruption at every college is unprecedented, as is the effort here at SUNY Plattsburgh. Students should hear directly from their professors, departments, deans and the chief academic officer as matters of grades, expectations and more are detailed.

The college may not be operating with open doors on our campus but it is running with open hearts giving its all for students.

Like you, one of the best parts of my first seven weeks on campus was mixing and meeting students. It is why I do what I do, why you do what you do. It is painful not to be able to talk and meet with them as we have.

We can be assured, though, that this is not lasting. Campus life will return in the future and in a robust fashion.

Until it does, we are here for them, and for you. Please do not hesitate to ask for help.

With deepest gratitude,

Alex Enyedi