

July 27, 2020

Dear Students:

I hope this email finds you and your families doing well during these difficult times. While the fall semester will certainly be different due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Slippery Rock University remains a caring and encouraging community that is here to support you in both face-to-face and virtual environments.

As you know, SRU had previously announced that it would implement a very low-density model for the fall semester. As part of that model, our plans called for a reduction in the number of residential students living on campus, streamlined dining services and activities, and a reduction in the number of in-person classes in order to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Now that the trajectory of the pandemic is becoming clearer and less promising, it has become evident that we must – in the interest of the health and safety of our entire University community – continue to shift more of our course offerings to a fully online format. Early in our planning I had hoped that conditions would allow us to have about half of our courses in person. Today, I expect that figure to be about 20%, which will be comprised primarily of specialized clinical experiences; courses that require equipment only available on campus; and/or for those courses that involve hands-on experiences that cannot be readily replicated online. While this is not the fall semester any of us were hoping for, this move will allow us to drastically reduce the number of people gathered in any one place at any one time.

Please know that our faculty will make sure that all course requirements are clearly explained and will work hard to ensure that you have the best possible educational experience regardless of delivery mode.

Students should check their schedules for any changes to previously listed multimodal or in-person classes by logging into their MySRU accounts.

While there will be some on-campus housing available for students who live far away and have in-person classes on campus, it will be limited. In order to facilitate the process of reducing our housing density, I encourage all students who expected to live on campus to withdraw their housing applications if their course schedule is made up of all online classes. Again, the housing staff will be prioritizing our limited availability to those students who live far away and need to be physically on campus. Withdrawing your on-campus housing application – if you don't absolutely need to live on campus – will help facilitate this process.

Currently, the Bailey Library, the Smith Student Center and the Aebersold Recreation Center will remain open with limited occupancies. Outdoor recreation trails and outdoor

facilities at the McFarland Sports Complex will also be available. As they did in the spring, our student life and recreation staff members will be creating virtual social, fitness and recreation programs. Programing can be accessed through CORE, the University's online platform for cocurricular organizations and programs.

SRU is a nonprofit university. As such, tuition and fees at SRU are linked directly to the cost of providing our academic programs and services. This means that, in general, SRU does not change tuition or fees if the cost of delivering the programs and services does not change. However, in the current environment, we have decided to reduce the Student Activity, Smith Student Center and Recreation fees by 50% for the 2020-21 academic year. This decision was made to provide fee relief in light of the current challenging circumstances we face. [Descriptions of these fees are available on the Student Accounts page.](#)

I'd also like to encourage those of you who haven't yet had a chance to [review the University's Fall 2020 Reopening Plan](#), to do so. If you're one of the many who already have, check back often as information is continually being updated to this living document.

Finally, I will be hosting an open forum on Zoom at 6 p.m., July 29, for students that may have questions regarding the University's fall reopening plan. [Registration is required and available here.](#) After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

I'd like to thank all of you for your goodwill and flexibility as we have adjusted to the constantly changing landscape presented by the coronavirus. We hope that this move creates just a bit of certainty during this otherwise uncertain time.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Best,

Bill Behre  
President