Urgent Coronavirus Update from Dean of Students Charles Kenyon

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Dear Students: as you should know, the coronavirus pandemic is causing daily changes in recommendations from health authorities about how to prevent exposure and contain the spread of the virus throughout our communities. Most recently, states of emergency have been declared in the United States, the State of New York, and Cayuga County, along with all other counties in New York State. We are expecting additional mandates from civil authorities that will further restrict normal business operations as more information becomes available about the extent that COVID-19 has spread throughout New York State.

Under the circumstances we now face, Wells College has determined that we must temporarily suspend our residential living program. All students currently residing on campus must prepare to leave their on-campus housing and depart campus as soon as arrangements can be made. Students who are not currently living on campus but had planned to return in the week ahead should suspend those plans until further notice. We understand that some students, especially international students, may have special requirements and we will address those on a case-by-case basis. Our Student Affairs staff -- Emily Burt, Andre Lynch, Jobe Zulu, Bill Lawrence and I -- will be available to assist with any specific questions or concerns you may have.

Please note that the College's academic program will continue effective March 23 through classes delivered by faculty in an online format. You should check your email daily for updates from your faculty with instructions for accessing the online format. Questions about accessing and completing your academic courses should be addressed to the faculty member for each course, or to me at ckenyon@wells.edu.

Please know that we take this action with heavy heart. None of us expected that the 2020 spring semester would be disrupted in such a profound and disturbing manner. Nevertheless, we are committed to providing all of our students with the high quality learning experience they have come to expect at Wells College. In the coming days you will receive more information about when classes might resume on campus and how activities normally taking place during the spring semester will be carried out. We ask your patience and cooperation as we work together to get through this difficult time.

Please feel free to contact me at ckenyon@wells.edu with any questions or concerns.
--Charles

Charles B. Kenyon
Interim Dean of Students