

Faculty, staff and students,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I want to thank all of you – faculty, staff and students – for your hard work over the past week or so in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The learning and work environment in which we currently exist – with all classes being delivered by distance, faculty and staff working from home in most cases, and students and teaching staff adapting to changing educational parameters – is certainly not ideal. A great many of you have gone above and beyond over the past two weeks, however, to make this difficult transition as seamless as possible. I cannot even begin to name all of the groups – let alone all the individuals – who have worked together in challenging circumstances to do this. But please know that all of you have the Board's utmost appreciation and respect.

All of us will be working, teaching, learning, and socializing from a distance for the foreseeable future. This is a big change for most of us, especially in an organization that values and in fact thrives on close personal interactions. I encourage all of you, however, not to lose sight in the coming weeks and months that we are indeed a University *community*. Paradoxically, we may be working, teaching and learning apart from each other right now, but by facing this challenge together and with an enthusiastic commitment to each other's wellbeing, we can emerge from this experience a closer-knit community than ever before. It is my earnest hope that surmounting these challenges together today will make us collectively stronger tomorrow.

It is often said that crisis situations bring out the best in some, and the worst in others. The COVID-19 pandemic is bringing out the best in all of you, and I want to thank you for rising to the occasion when the University of Regina has needed you most.

Sincerely,

Roger Brandvold  
Chair, University of Regina Board of Governors