University update for June 5, 2020

• Student financial supports and fee reductions
• On-campus Co-op and Internship placements
• Summer academic supports
• Fall Planning

Members of the University community,

As we work through the many challenges presented by COVID-19, the University continues to make the health, safety, well-being and academic needs of our students a top priority.

To that end, I wish to share with you some of the supports that are now in place to assist students.

**Student financial supports and fee reductions**

To ease the financial burden that many students are facing

- Approximately $315,000 has been distributed through the two Student Emergency Funds;
- Financial holds on student accounts have been removed in order to allow students to register for their next semesters;
- Late payment fees have been reduced;
- Parking fees have been suspended; and
- The Recreation and Athletic fee has been suspended for Spring/Summer and Fall terms. In addition, the Students’ Union has waived the U-Pass (transit) fee.

Most importantly, there is no increase to tuition this year. Taken together, the tuition freeze and fee suspensions are estimated to save students approximately $4.65 million. Part of this lost revenue will be offset by campus energy and utility cost savings.

**On-campus co-op and internship placements**

With many co-op work placements delayed or cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, the University is looking for internal opportunities for work term opportunities to help accommodate affected students. We have put out a campus-wide call to Faculties and departments to find internal placements for students whose external placements have disappeared.

Into on-campus co-op positions we hope to place at least 30 students whose skills range from business, computer science, and engineering to the liberal arts and the natural sciences.

**Summer academic supports**

To assist Grade 12 students who are entering university this fall, the University will offer optional prep courses to those who are interested.

Students wanting to get a jump on their studies, develop their skills, and make the transition to university easier can choose from an array of offerings including:
• summer bridge programs;
• special sections of Math 102 and Chemistry 100;
• Faculty of Science Zoom workshops;
• and of course, our traditional orientation sessions.

All of these courses are optional. The University of Regina is committed to working with all students to assist them in their transition to university-level learning, particularly given all the COVID-19-related impacts on their high-school careers.

**Fall semester planning**

Work continues on Fall Semester planning. A new website, to be launched soon, is under development. It will combine all COVID, Spring/Summer, and Fall semester information into one source.

I know that our recovery planning groups in Academics, Research, and Operations continue to look for more ways to support University of Regina students as we navigate our way forward. In the meantime, please continue to stay healthy and look after each other. Together, as a community, we will beat this challenge.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor