

Message from the Interim President

Members of the University community,

As I begin my tenure as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, my first message to you must be one of thanks.

With the COVID-19 pandemic having disrupted our work, our communities, and indeed our lives, countless people have demonstrated their tireless support for this institution, its students, and its academic mission. I very much appreciate this, and will continue to rely upon that support in coming weeks and months.

I want to thank:

- every member of the University faculty and staff, who in the face of the pandemic have worked incredibly hard and with dazzling speed to ensure that students' needs are met;
- units such as Information Services and the Centre for Continuing Education (to name only two of many), who have gone above and beyond to support academic staff and students' transition to learning at a distance;
- the students themselves, who have responded with grit and adaptability as university life was turned upside-down in the space of a week;
- the University Leadership Team - including the Executive Team, the Deans, and the leaders of administrative units - who have worked tirelessly to steer the largest change management exercise in the institution's history;
- the Board of Governors, for their support, advice, and commitment to the University's wellbeing;
- the Honourable Tina Beaudry-Mellor and her officials with the Ministry of Advanced Education, for assisting and advising the provincial post-secondary community at this time of need;
- members of the larger community, for understanding that many of the programs and facilities we have usually provide are not available during the pandemic; and
- all those who I may have overlooked or not mentioned by name.

Even a month ago, none of us could have anticipated that the University's Winter 2020 term would conclude as it is - with remote course delivery the norm, faculty and staff working at a distance, and classrooms and other facilities empty of the students who bring such life and enthusiasm to our campuses. Even fewer could have predicted that teaching at a distance will continue at least until the completion of the Spring/Summer term in August. It will be weeks, perhaps months, before the challenges of the pandemic abate and normal on-campus operations can resume.

This is a challenging time to assume the role of Interim President and Vice-Chancellor. Working with you, I will make every effort to ensure the stability and continuity of our University's operations and its academic mission of teaching, research, and service to community.

We have supported each other in the past, and in the months to come I know we can count on all members of the University and larger community to continue their exemplary commitment to each other. Through this commitment to each other and to the University of Regina, I know that we will demonstrate the compassion, resilience, and hope that have characterized and animated the University of Regina throughout its proud history.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor