April 1, 2021

To the University Community and our Wesley Colleagues,

Last year, I spent April walking around a mostly deserted campus wondering — like many of you — what the future held not just for us, but for our entire nation. Fast forward to one very eventful year filled with unimaginable loss, intense social unrest, and political divisions not seen in recent history. We are not out of the proverbial woods, but there are signs that better days are ahead. Among the most notable of those signs are the over 90 million Americans who have already received at least one COVID-19 vaccine injection.

Thanks to our safety protocols and your care for each other, we have attracted national attention for our ability — together — to keep our University community safe. Our campus looks increasingly more normal each day. For the Fall semester, we are working toward a full return – one that will include new students and colleagues from our Wesley campus and all of you. As we march toward our ambitious goals, we will need your time, attention, and cooperation.

In the interim, I am sure you have plenty of questions on your mind. Let’s begin with the big ones:

- We are planning in-person graduation to include our Spring 2021 class and all 2020 graduates who could not participate in their graduation last year. We expect a fully vaccinated campus – students, staff, and faculty – when we return next Fall. Beginning in April through the Summer, we will be hosting University-sponsored vaccination events in collaboration with the Division of Public Health and local pharmacies. Our goal is to ensure that everyone can be accommodated.
- As the Governor continues to modify the State of Emergency contingencies, we are preparing for more outdoor and in-person activity throughout the remainder of
the semester. These activities will follow our normal safety protocols and be open to both the University and the Wesley College communities. A sample list is below.

We plan to review all the above and more at our next Town Hall on Tuesday, April 6, at 11 a.m., which will be open to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and University stakeholders. Until then, enjoy the upcoming extended weekend, continue to be safe and responsible, and get ready for a New Day — for your family, your communities, and each other.

Together,

Tony Allen, Ph.D.

President