



October 19, 2020

To the Professors and Faculty of The Catholic University of America,

As the representative body of the Undergraduate Students at The Catholic University of America, it is our responsibility to listen to the academic and social concerns of the students and advocate for them accordingly. Recent discussions with students and with members of the faculty have given us cause for concern regarding the willingness of the faculty to return to in-person instruction next semester contrasted with student determination to learn on campus.

In our role as the bridge between the students and the faculty of the University, it is our duty to convey the strains of remote learning that our student body has experienced during the Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters. These hardships fall not only on the backs of the professors responsible for conveying course content in a remote fashion, but also on those of students who often struggle with limited class engagement, technological mishaps, and general loss of interest in a remote course of studies. The concerns that arise about the quality of educational instruction that can be provided online are echoed by many of our students across the country and the world.

We are cognizant that many of you remain cautious, especially in light of the fact that the virus has a disproportionate impact on those of older age. For the past 8 months, we too have been worried about infecting our elderly family members and loved ones. Nevertheless, many students living on campus and in the surrounding area have seen firsthand the work that the Administration has put into infrastructure in the classroom and across campus as a whole.

We commend the University Administration for taking all reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of students and faculty. With enforced social distancing, mandated masks, plexiglass shields to lecture behind, and more, we cannot think of a safer place on campus to congregate. The Administration has invested in technology to allow for hybrid instruction should students, or faculty, be compromised with the virus. Furthermore, robust cleaning procedures accompany all in person lectures, and students who feel sick are urged to remain quarantined. We the students have witnessed these incredibly cautious safety measures first hand this semester, and are confident in their ability to keep us - and you - safe next spring.

Let us be absolutely clear - we have no intention of suggesting any course of action that places undue risk upon you, the faculty and professors. In the case of professors who are immunocompromised, of extreme old age, or at otherwise heightened risk of infection, we understand the need to continue online methods of instruction.

That being said, we urge all non exempt professors to return for in-person instruction in the spring. We believe the academic and emotional toll witnessed by students, combined with the considerable safety measures instituted by the University, offer a compelling argument for this course of action. We consider it a disservice to our academic careers to not take advantage of the opportunity to return safely to the classroom. We offer this opinion not of our own convictions, but through numerous conversations and office hours with members of the student body. As their duly elected representatives, we remain committed to upholding our responsibility to all our undergraduate students and ensuring they have the most fruitful educational experience possible.

Sincerely,

The Student Government Association

cua-sga@cua.edu

sga.catholic.edu