

PRESIDENT RICHARDS COMMENTS – JULY 29, 2020

Our universities have been extremely busy, diligently preparing for the resumption of in-person classes and on-campus university services for the Fall 2020 semester.

We all have had to make sacrifices and adjustments as the COVID-19 pandemic has been unfolding. I am impressed by our institutional leadership agreeing to take pay reductions to help with the economic challenges our schools are facing. One key aspect of leadership is being able to let your organization know that we are all in this together. Our leaders, both on the academic side as well as the athletics side, have shown the willingness to make significant personal sacrifice for the betterment of our staff and students. I want to say thank you to each of them.

We recognize that shared sacrifice is part of getting through this, and everything that we can do makes a difference in this pandemic. Whether that be financial sacrifice, or changing personal behavior and social choices to help mitigate the spread. By now, we all know the ways that health experts have been telling us that we can help: Wear a mask, socially distance, and wash your hands frequently.

We certainly anticipate that the detailed plans our universities have made public for the Fall 2020 semester will continue to be refined, added to, and adjusted if need be. Health and safety has been and will continue to be the top priority.

Now, I want to recognize Regent Nancy Boettger, who will read a formal resolution from the Board regarding COVID-19 and our public universities.