To the StFX Community,

Wow.

As we approach the final days of the academic term, I am taking a moment to reflect on all that has transpired within the last two and a half weeks. It’s hard to believe the impact COVID-19 has had, not just within our immediate community, but around the world.

One of the important lessons I am taking away is that it is simply amazing what we can accomplish when faced with crisis and we all work together. The creativity and innovation, the willingness to help one another, the collective ‘we can’ mindset, and our true compassion toward others continues to inspire me.

Speaking of inspiring, yesterday we launched Our StFX: Student Emergency Fund – a fund designed to provide financial assistance for StFX students who have nowhere else to turn and are at risk of being prevented from achieving their goal of a StFX diploma or degree. Once again, the StFX community stepped up. In just 24 hours, we have raised nearly $60,000 for StFX students. This is simply astounding. On behalf of StFX, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this very worthy cause, and encourage those who are in a position to help to please do so. As our generous alumni often proclaim, ‘If you fall, we will be here to catch you.’ The Xaverian community has demonstrated that in spades. You can find more information about the Emergency Fund here.

But there is still more to do. Earlier this week, we presented a recommendation to the Board of Governors regarding credit for students who lived in residence and had meal plans (including DCB), and had to leave campus over the last two weeks. Please note that we recognized that there are several variables that have to be carefully considered, and that a one-size-fits-all approach simply wouldn’t work. We will have an announcement with details regarding this issue early next week. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we finalize these details.

Lastly, I am reminded daily of the benefits of being kind. The way we do things has greatly changed, and change can be hard. But that’s okay. We are doing well at adapting to the new reality and I attribute this to the community coming together to care for one another. There are many challenges ahead, but together we will get through them. In fact, in the last few days we had the opportunity to collect a few messages from various members of the campus community expressing their words of encouragement. Thank you to all who participated. Click here to view.
Please continue to take care of yourself and one another.

Hail and Health.

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