



Dear University Staff Community,

We are writing to you on behalf of the student community to thank you for all the incredible hard work you are putting into the student experience, not just at the moment but over the past 6 months.

The current situation is hard for everybody, and has created a huge number of challenges for us all to overcome, and whilst not everything is perfect this is not for a lack of effort. Reading some of the newspaper coverage about universities, SUs and in particular staff at the moment you would think that we had all been on holiday since February.

But we know that in reality, everybody has been working harder than ever.

To make such dramatic changes to the university would be challenging at the best of times, but to have made them against the backdrop of a global pandemic which has affected all of us in different ways is remarkable, and is something which students really do recognise.

Our thanks go across the staff community, whether it is academic staff who have developed an entirely new way of teaching their discipline remotely, the cleaning staff and security who have made campus safe for those wishing to use it, or those in student support giving invaluable advice to students at a time when they need it most. It has been a huge collective effort to deliver the best possible student experience against an almost impossible backdrop, and for that we are very grateful, and we wanted you to know that it is recognised by students.

As ever, we remain committed to working in partnership together, and now more than ever the partnership between students, staff, the university and the SU is critical.

As an SU we have been working hard over the summer to provide the best possible student experience whilst also making sure we prioritise looking after our students' health. We have, therefore, been running a virtual welcome program with over 120 events, attended by thousands of students online. We are providing remote student communities and societies so that our students can still meet peers with similar interests, values and backgrounds. All of our elections are now being run online, and we have asked existing voice leaders if they would be willing to stay on so that we can provide the highest quality representation. Everything from advice about academic misconduct to our radio station are now happening remotely, and we are committed to providing 100% of our usual services to students, albeit differently.

We would love to hear about any opportunities for us to work together in the coming months, and please feel free to point students in our direction.

Across our community this pandemic has had a terrible impact, some of us have lost valued colleagues, friends and family. It will leave a lasting impression, and when the time is right it is important, we acknowledge the pain it has caused. But we should also acknowledge the collective strength which our community has shown, the support which we have given each other and the overwhelming kindness and compassion which have shown themselves to be in the DNA of our university.

Obviously, we don't know when we will be able to get back to campus and to work together face to face again, but it is something that we are all looking forward to.

Across our campus university staff continue to be an inspiration to students, and for that we wanted to say thank you.

In Unity,

Gagandeep Kaur

Tahmina Choudhery

Nishtha Relan

Khalid Abumaye

(President MDXSU)

(Vice President PSS)

(Vice President ACI)

(Vice President S and T)