Fellow Professional Students,

As we entered this semester, we assumed it would be business as usual; however, the spread of COVID-19 has radically transformed our education and disrupted our way of life. As this situation continues to unfold, leaders at all levels have worked to ensure that students are safe and able to learn. IPC applauds these efforts and has worked to ensure that the student voice is not lost in the shuffle. I would like to update you on our efforts.

1. When President Drake announced restrictions on in-person classes, but not experiential learning, we heard your concerns and IPC immediately surveyed our constituents. Some students were concerned about attending clinics with no protective equipment and others over what these changes meant for their education. We sent this data and correspondence to the Deans of our colleges. No doubt, your responses helped inform their discussions and decisions. We remain involved in ensuring that those necessary decisions do not adversely affect your abilities to graduate or be licensed. After all, we should not be forced to choose between our health and safety or our profession. In addition, we requested the addition of students to each college’s COVID task force. Deans quickly answered this call by integrating student spokespersons into their structure, strengthening the line of communication.

2. When COVID-19 restrictions required the closing of university dorms, students had to relocate to their permanent residencies. IPC helped build a coalition of student governments to advocate for the State of Ohio to excuse out-of-state students whose residency application were affected. Shortly after delivering our request to the State, the Ohio Department of Higher Education did exactly that. IPC is currently collaborating with the Council of Graduate Students and the Undergraduate Student Government to address remaining concerns on the requirements for Ohio residency.

3. Finally, we are launching a campus-wide survey to better understand how COVID-19 may have affected your life, including: your physical or mental health, housing, childcare, graduation, professional licensing. Not only will this survey inform our efforts to serve you immediately, but it will also highlight student needs in future pandemic planning.

So that we can best serve you and our professional student community, we would encourage you to participate in this survey: go.osu.edu/COVID19StudentNeeds

Though our resources may be limited, IPC will work to ensure that all student concerns are heard.

Sincerely,

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