

Dear Chancellor Paz, Dean Rocco, Dean Moore, Dean Lloyd, Dean Zadnik, Dean Mann, and Dean Davies:

The Interprofessional Council (IPC)—the university student government for professional students—recognizes the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on our global community. Recently, President Drake issued a university-wide statement on important precautions to adopt during this initial response period.

The current university guidelines state that:

“Beginning Monday, March 23, instruction will be virtual for the remainder of spring semester. Exceptions will be made for certain clinical experiences or field work in which students are actively serving patients or clients. Academic leaders from those programs will be contacting students with specific information. Further resources are available at the Ohio State Keep Learning website.”

The safety of our students is and has always been our first priority. Our professional students are preparing to lead careers that may see future pandemics, like COVID-19. Addressing this pandemic provides a unique learning opportunity for our students. While this situation presents new challenges to our university, it also provides the opportunity for us, as a community, to work together to solve those challenges.

In the spirit of shared governance, we request that each of our colleges incorporate student opinions by including IPC student representatives on the COVID response task forces of each college.

Additionally, students are still physically participating in clinical experiences and rotations, laboratory-based instruction, externships, and simulation-based experiences. However, our students are not only completing these curricular requirements on Ohio State’s campus, but are also spread throughout central Ohio. Many of us are located in community-based clinics, primary care clinics, and other sites that are not as well-equipped with the personal protective equipment as Ohio State. **In the event that the risks posed by these experiences cannot be substantially mitigated, we would like to advocate for the offering of alternate clinical experiences that students may engage with in lieu of any high-exposure setting.**

As this situation continues to unfold, we have been collecting concerns and ideas from our constituents about how the University can better support students in these clinical situations. We hope that their feedback, totaling 174 responses in the past 24-hours and attached to this letter,

may be taken into consideration by our respective programs. We would like to list a few key areas of concern:

1. Communicating to students how relocating to their home state will affect their residency status;
2. Explaining to students the rationale behind restricting face-to-face lectures but not clinical rotations, labs, and externships; and
3. Addressing graduation requirements and projected plans for commencement.

As our campus community rises to the occasion to address this unprecedented challenge, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the concerns of our community members, especially their safety concerns, are met. Thank you for your leadership throughout this matter.

Sincerely,

Jordan Vajda
President
Medicine, Class of 2021

Matthew Hamrick
Vice-President
Pharmacy, Class of 2020

William Vu
Secretary
Dentistry, Class of 2022

TJ Beavers
Chief of Staff
Law, Class of 2020

Ellen Smith
Vice-President for Inter-Governmental Relations
Optometry, Class of 2022

IPC Senators

(Lead Contact in bold)

| | |
|--|---|
| College of Dentistry <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mihail Ocrainiciuc (ocrainiciuc.2@osu.edu)● Alex Sherman (sherman.195@osu.edu)● Nick Molnar (molnar.165@osu.edu)● Gary Sukienik (sukienik.1@osu.edu)● William Vu (vu.190@osu.edu)● Angela Kruk (kruk.8@osu.edu)● Justin Kim (kim.4857@osu.edu)● Dallas Montag (montag.27@osu.edu) | College of Law <ul style="list-style-type: none">● TJ Beavers (beavers.58@osu.edu)● Margaret Huck (huck.47@osu.edu)● Seth Barany (barany.4@osu.edu)● Brianne Schell (schell.66@osu.edu)● Jacob Zuberi (zuberi.10@osu.edu)● Trina Thomas (thomas.269@osu.edu)● Shea Daley (daley.144@osu.edu)● Karen Rodriguez Santos (rodriguezsantos.1@osu.edu) |
| College of Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none">● James Gallagher (james.gallagher@osumc.edu)● Anirundh Tarimala (anirudh.tarimala@osumc.edu)● Jordan Vajda (jordan.vajda@osumc.edu)● Janice Bonsu (janice.bonsu@osumc.edu)● Marianela Feliu (marianela.feliu@osumc.edu)● Bianca Arellano (bianca.arellano@osumc.edu)● Ross Bales (ross.bales@osumc.edu)● Andrew Burns (andrew.burns@osumc.edu) | College of Optometry <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nikki Auble (auble.12@osu.edu)● Kelly Lutmer (lutmer.13@osu.edu)● Ellen Smith (smith.1219@osu.edu)● Richard Wan (wan.182@osu.edu)● Fareedah Haroun (Haroun.3@osu.edu)● Allie Neuhaus (Neuhaus.10@osu.edu)● Josh Canavan (canavan.22@osu.edu)● Rachel Mathie (mathie.17@osu.edu) |
| College of Pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shivani Patel (Patel.2152@osu.edu)● Matt Hamrick (hamrick.78@osu.edu)● Smit Patel (Patel.3121@osu.edu)● Kaeli Parcel (Parcel.4@osu.edu)● Zach Dougherty (dougherty.244@osu.edu)● Mario Martinez (martinez.413@osu.edu)● Chelsea Garza (Garza.85@osu.edu)● Chris Stuessy-Vidas (stuessy-vidas.1@osu.edu) | College of Veterinary Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sophie Cressman (cressman.9@osu.edu)● Macon Overcast (Overcast.3@osu.edu)● Adam Feinzig (Feinzig.1@osu.edu)● Jorge-Eduardo Mendoza (mendoza.773@osu.edu)● Alex Amador (amador.33@osu.edu)● Jenna Bierly (bierly.18@osu.edu)● Kyleigh Taylor (tyler.240@osu.edu)● Emma Brennan (brennan.234@osu.edu) |