Dear Members of the University Community,

Recently, Governor Wolf extended stay-at-home directives for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania further into May and provided additional information about the conditions necessary for Pennsylvania to reopen various businesses and operations. Considering this guidance and that of the federal government, the President’s Cabinet and I have made the following decisions related to Commencement, Senior Week, summer classes and activities, and Orientation:

**Commencement and Senior Week**
As I have already shared separately with graduating undergraduate and graduate students, we will not be able to hold Commencement and Senior Week in May as we had hoped. We waited as long as possible to make this decision and did so with great concern for the health and well-being of all involved. We are, therefore, postponing Commencement until the weekend of October 24-25. Our preliminary plans include hosting Baccalaureate Mass and a Commencement Party on campus on Saturday, October 24, and conducting a combined Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremony at the Mohegan Sun Arena on Sunday, October 25.

**Summer Classes and Other Academic Activity**
After consulting with faculty leadership and the deans, we have decided that all summer classes will now be delivered through remote education. Fortunately, many undergraduate and graduate summer classes are already online. Faculty will need time, however, to adapt others. This is especially the case for science faculty who must undertake the arduous task of preparing to offer essential laboratory courses remotely. I remain deeply grateful to our faculty as they demonstrate, every day, their commitment to ensuring the quality and integrity of our academic programs no matter how courses are delivered.

While we believe it is necessary to continue remote education through the summer, we will be alert for ways to open campus for other academic activity as soon as it is permitted. This could include, for example, individual summer research projects by undergraduate and graduate students.

**Orientation and Fall Welcome**
We have also decided to move our Orientation program in June to a virtual format. Student Life, Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs, Mission and Ministry, Information Technology, and many others across campus will collaborate to ensure that we begin to acclimate our newest Royals and help
them connect with each other and us. We must do all that we can, virtual or not, to prepare our incoming students to begin their academic career successfully. We should continue to prepare for new and returning students to arrive on campus at the end of August as originally planned. Fall Welcome weekend is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 29 and 30. We will alert you to any adjustments to the schedule.

Other Summer Events
The summer is typically filled with other activities including Reunion Weekend, admissions tours, and camps and conferences of all types. We have, unfortunately, decided that it is necessary to cancel Reunion in June, and I have written separately to our alumni to share this news. We will approach other campus activities in the same manner as we do other academic activity, moving forward when permitted and when we deem it safe.

Campus Closure
At this time, campus is closed as per directives from the Governor. We will begin to reopen campus once these restrictions can be safely lifted. We are expecting that any opening plan for Pennsylvania will retain social distancing measures for some time and will share additional information about these measures in the coming weeks.

A Word About the Fall
As we look ahead, the University is making plans for a return to campus this fall. You may have seen headlines implying that colleges and universities are widely cancelling fall classes. This is not the case. Schools are preparing contingency plans should the pandemic once again disrupt campus-based operations. The University is also considering alternatives, learning from our experience this spring.

Trust that as we plan for future possibilities we will continue to consult widely. After all, the success of our response thus far grows from the University’s greatest strength: our community. We have faced these challenges together, and together we will ensure that The University of Scranton remains a source of learning, hope and love for all.

May God bless and keep you, and may God bless The University of Scranton.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.
President