Dear Westminster Community,

With only six weeks remaining in the fall term, I want to let you know about changes to the upcoming spring term resulting from the ongoing pandemic. We have been following health and safety guidelines provided by all levels of government as well as those of private health organizations. We are also taking advantage of the lessons learned during the spring and summer as we planned for the fall semester in addition to all we have learned as this term progressed. Thanks to the hard work of all Westminster employees and students, the fall term has been very successful, and we want that to continue for the remainder of the academic year.

After careful deliberation, we are revising the spring schedule to better protect the health and safety of our community. These changes will allow Westminster to continue offering the great on-campus student experience for which we are known.

Here are the major highlights:
- The first day of classes will be moved from January 11th to January 20th.
- The President's Day Holiday scheduled for February 12th will be cancelled.
- A long weekend will be added (probably March 26th-28th).
- Spring Break will be cancelled.
- Final exams, commencement, and the Columns Ceremony will remain as scheduled unless circumstances change.
- Details regarding drop days, campus move in, academic advising, and other important dates will be posted on the Westminster website next week.

These changes will minimize the likelihood of someone leaving campus and then returning after traveling great distances and being exposed to the virus. Also, starting a week later gets us through at least a little more of the flu season. Losing spring break is especially painful for us all, but this is a measure being taken by countless colleges nationwide and will likely be adopted by all. We are adding in a long weekend because we know everyone will need a mental health break by mid-March!

Because the winter break will be extraordinarily long this year as a result of the altered fall and spring calendars, we will be offering a five-week Winter Term beginning on November 30th and ending January 1st. We carefully scheduled classes that will be both interesting and important to your degree completion, and we also reduced tuition for Winter Term courses to $250 per credit hour.

Although the pandemic has created countless problems and has changed our lives in so many ways, it also offered Westminster the opportunity to add valuable technology to our classrooms. You will see faculty beginning to use that technology within the next few weeks and then incorporating it into their spring classes when doing so is appropriate. The technology also allows students who are ill or who otherwise cannot attend a class to actively participate when absent from the classroom itself.

Be assured that everything we do is intended to protect the health and safety of our community and to ensure a high-quality academic and campus experience for Westminster's students. These are indeed difficult times, but I am truly proud to be a member of a Westminster community that has come together this year in extraordinary fashion. This is such a wonderful place!

Best wishes,

David Roebuck, PhD
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dean of the Faculty