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June 1, 2020

MUIH Update

MUIH Students and Employees:

I want to acknowledge the continued senseless killings we have witnessed of African Americans and the multitude of feelings including anger, outrage, sadness, and pain being experienced by many Americans including the MUIH community. MUIH is opposed to all forms of racism and discrimination and supports efforts to break down these barriers and remove them from our society. In separate emails sent to students and employees, free resources are identified in the event you want to seek support or guidance regarding the recent events, the pandemic, or other matters.

We want to update you on our plans for the fall trimester. We are announcing decisions now for several reasons. Although the trimester begins on August 30, the course schedule will be posted on June 6 and registration begins June 22. We want students, faculty, and staff to know how we will operate so each of you can plan accordingly. In addition, we want to remove some of the uncertainty and angst you may be feeling wondering about our operations for the fall.

We will operate the fall trimester similar to the current trimester. We will offer a full schedule of courses. All classes will be offered online and remotely, and none will require students or faculty to come to campus or participate in in-person activities. There are some courses which require an experiential component that can only be achieved in person. The components of these courses that can be achieved remotely and online will be provided in this format, and the remaining experiential components will be completed in person in a future trimester when health and safety concerns permit. The Natural Care Center will not be operating in person during the fall trimester and students will continue to address their clinical requirements and make progress towards their degree via the virtual clinic models that have been approved by the program accreditors. The campus will continue to be closed with employees operating remotely at a minimum, throughout the remainder of the calendar year, including student and faculty support services. We will continue to monitor the situation and will make decisions regarding the spring 2021 trimester at a later date.

For new students starting in the fall, we have rearranged the sequence of their courses and/or identified appropriate virtual alternatives to in-person learning to enable them to take all online courses in the fall. This is consistent with the steps we have taken to assist continuing students in making progress towards their degree despite the suspension of in-person courses and coursework.

Students and faculty will soon be receiving more detailed information about their fall classes from the Provost and their Department Chair.

Additionally, in recognition of the potential impact of the pandemic on our students and their families, we have decided not to increase student tuition in the upcoming academic year and will not be implementing the increases that were originally planned. We are freezing tuition at the current rates for returning and new students this academic year.

In making these decisions, we gave consideration to the feedback we received on reopening as well as the following factors:

- The health and safety of students, staff, faculty, and patients/clients
- Federal, state, and local requirements and guidance on health and safety
- Students' progression toward timely degree completion
- The impact and risks of reopening vs delaying
- The specific circumstances and operations of MUIH and its employees and students

The overriding factor in making these decisions is protecting the health and safety of our students, employees, and patients. We believe continuing to operate remotely for at least the fall is the appropriate decision for MUIH. We are very fortunate that MUIH is capable of effectively operating remotely and we are not forced to make reopening and safety decisions heavily driven by economic concerns.

We are well aware there are ramifications to this decision and some individuals may prefer to have the campus or some aspects of the campus reopen. Some students or faculty may prefer an in-person class with physical distancing rather than an online class. Some students may want to be in the clinic with proper precautions. Some staff may prefer to work on campus with physical distancing and other precautions. Please keep in mind, although an individual may be willing to come to campus, others are impacted who would also need to be on campus depending upon the activity. For example, while an individual may be willing to return to seeing patients in the NCC, others such as faculty, clinic supervisors, individuals to open and close the building, clinic staff, individuals to clean, and individuals to take temperatures or other safety precautions would be required to support them. Similarly, other individuals would be involved for opening the building for classes or staff. Balancing the various factors to be considered, the temporary disruptions caused by not reopening are unfortunately part of dealing with the unusual circumstances of a global pandemic.

I will address some of the questions that may come up with these decisions.

- Why make a decision now rather than waiting closer to the start of the trimester?

We want students to be able to definitively plan their fall course schedule. We want faculty to have sufficient time to adjust their fall courses to ensure a meaningful and quality learning experience. We want staff to be able to focus their time and efforts on the operations as they will be rather than working on various unlikely scenarios. We do not foresee any events occurring in the next couple of months that would change these

decisions. We also want to remove the uncertainty so students and employees can plan accordingly and do not need to keep wondering or worrying about what will be expected of them or what their options are.

- Some colleges and universities are reopening while also preparing to move fully online if health concerns warrant that action so why doesn't MUIH take the same approach?

Our circumstances are very different than many universities that have announced such plans and, like MUIH, they have made such decisions and plans based on their unique circumstances. They serve different student audiences with different student expectations and needs. Their course experiences, on-campus activities, and financial considerations are different than those of MUIH. For our circumstances and based on our ability to operate remotely, we believe this is the right course of action for the fall.

- If circumstances change during the fall, will on campus courses be offered at least part of the trimester or will the Natural Care Center be reopened?

There will be no in-person courses, no on campus clinic operations, nor in-person offsite student or employee activities during the fall trimester.

- Since services provided in the Natural Care Center assist clients in maintaining their health and wellness, don't we have an obligation to reopen as soon as possible?

There is no doubt the value of our integrative health services and some students or practitioners may be willing to come to campus to provide these services. Most of the private providers in the Natural Care Center also have practices outside of our building and can provide services at those locations if they choose. Regarding the student clinic, weighing the potential risks to our students and employees we have decided to not open the Natural Care Center in the fall and to instead rely on telehealth to serve our clients.

- Businesses all around us are opening up and will continue to open up following approved safety guidelines so why shouldn't MUIH?

Even as states are permitting the reopening of businesses, the advice is to work remotely if possible. MUIH has the ability to function effectively remotely and, even following approved safety guidelines, we have concluded that the risks outweigh the benefits for reopening this fall.

- What is going to happen in January because I have long-term concerns about returning to a classroom or to work?

We are going to continue our practice of monitoring the situation and making decisions as we go along consistent with our stated factors. We will of course be conscious of concerns staff, faculty, and students have and our operations will reflect those concerns. I expect that when we reopen operations, it will be phased with students and employees having options.

We may be accused of being overly cautious. I understand and respect that perspective and apologize to those who may feel adversely impacted by these decisions. MUIH has a culture of gratitude and I am grateful for each of you and grateful that we are part of an organization that has the flexibility to be cautious in how we proceed in order to protect everyone's health and safety.

Have a great week and be safe and well!

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc B. Levin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Marc Levin
President and CEO