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April 2, 2020

Raven Nation:

Last night, Dr. Kim Mooney and I participated in a Zoom meet-up with members of our senior class of 2020. In that meet-up we informed them of our institutional plan to postpone our commencement ceremony.

We would like to hold a condensed version of our commencement ceremony and other senior week activities, preferably, this summer, but possibly this fall if necessary. With guidance from our SGA Senior Class Officers, Dr. Mooney and the Senior Staff determined this was the right decision to make on behalf of our graduating students and their families at this time.

A final decision as to whether we can hold a postponed commencement ceremony this summer is dependent on our ability to maintain safety, as determined by the slowing or curtailment of the COVID-19 outbreak and informed by local, state, and national agencies. We hope to have an official announcement as to the date and format of our postponed ceremony by mid-May to allow time for our students and families to plan.

We believe it is important that our graduating seniors be given the celebration they worked so hard to earn. In the event that we cannot safely hold the ceremony this summer, we will provide an alternative.

Please also note that additional conversations are occurring about how to best recognize our graduate students during this time and will continue as the situation evolves. We are working hard to also provide our graduate students with the ceremony they deserve.

We appreciate the patience of our graduating seniors and the involvement of our SGA Senior Class Officers in helping inform our decision making, both now and in the coming weeks, related to our commencement. Please also remember that all graduating seniors will receive their degrees as originally scheduled.

Be well Ravens.

Andrew R. Pollom, EdD.
Dean of Student Affairs
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