UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

COMMUNIQUÉ - COVID-19

TO: ALL UoM STAFF AND STUDENTS

Following the press conference by the Honourable Prime Minister yesterday confirming COVID-19 cases in Mauritius and the communiqué from the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, the University of Mauritius is taking all necessary precautionary steps to ensure the safety of staff and students and at the same time the running of the UoM.

Staff and Students are requested to take note of and abide by the following:

1. **Access to UoM Campuses:** as per Government's decision, students are reminded that no classes will be held on Campus with immediate effect and until further notice. Students will have no access to the University premises, including the library, gymnasium, cafeteria, laboratories, student centre and student sitting areas.

2. **Delivery of Lectures:** as previously communicated, all Academic Staff (including Part-Timers) should ensure the remaining 5 weeks of lectures using online facilities **only** (Moodle, Google Classroom, Zoom, Skype, Google Meet, etc.). Part-timers will have to ensure the smooth running of lectures via online mode of delivery and are temporarily exempted from swiping the ETAS card.

3. **Final Year Projects/Dissertations:** as we approach submission deadline for final year projects/dissertations, the remaining weeks of supervision and guidance of students will have to be conducted online. The deadline for submission of final year projects/dissertations is being extended to **Thursday 30 April 2020**, but this new deadline could be subject to review.

4. Students are reminded that all rules and regulations with respect to electronic submission of final year projects/dissertations continue to apply. Submission of electronic copy should be accompanied by the Turnitin Report. Exceptionally, no hard-copy needs to be submitted this year. Students are required to submit their final year projects/dissertations, in PDF format, to their respective **Project/Programme Coordinator** and copied to their Dissertation Supervisor.

5. **Lab-Based Projects:** students should liaise with their respective supervisors to complete outstanding lab work, if any, as and when the University resumes.
6. **Students’ Placements**: students undergoing placement outside the University are requested to liaise with their respective organisations to make arrangements to either work from home or to reschedule the placement as far as possible.

7. **Class Tests and Assignments**: all remaining class tests have to be cancelled. All continuous assessment for the remaining weeks will have to be conducted online. Academic staff need to consider alternative modes of assessment (e.g. assignments, online quiz, etc.) in replacement of class tests.

8. **May 2020 Examinations**: the May 2020 examinations are being postponed until further notice.

9. **International Students**: all international students may consider returning to their home country and remain in touch with their programme coordinators for completion of their programme.

10. **Events and Activities**: all events and activities of the University are cancelled until further notice.

11. **Work from Home**: So as not to disrupt the running of the University, all staff are requested to work from home, as far as possible. This measure is applicable as from Friday 20 March 2020.

12. **Ensuring essential services**: for essential services (e.g. senior management, security, HR, Finance, ASRO, IT and First Aid) a minimum daily service will be assured. In these cases, the respective supervisors will make arrangements with staff concerned.

13. **Senior Management**: Senior Management Officers and Deans of Faculty/Directors/Chief Librarian/OICs/Managers will ensure a minimum daily service and be available at all times. They will have to organise a roster with their administrative and support staff. All such arrangements have to be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor’s Office.

14. **Research Assistants**: all Principal Investigators are required to ensure that their respective RAs continue to work from home strictly so that their monthly remuneration is not affected. All requests for payment for RAs have to be made electronically the Finance Director.

15. **No gathering at the UoM**: Gatherings of more than 5 persons on the University premises is strictly forbidden.

**END NOTE**

We rely on the self-discipline, understanding, cooperation and sense of responsibility of each of us to keep others and ourselves safe and healthy. The UoM should act as a model for the country.

**PROFESSOR D JHURRY, CSK, GOSK**
**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

*19 March 2020*