Dear faculty, staff, and students,

This week we received several important announcements from UMB President Dr. Bruce Jarrell:

- **Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021 must be held virtually.**
- **Telework for mandatory teleworkers will continue until at least June 1.**

Let me start by emphasizing that the School of Pharmacy is committed to recognizing the members of the Class of 2021 from all of our degree programs for their tremendous achievements and will start working on a plan for a virtual celebration.

Regarding telework, I continue to applaud all of our employees and students who have been so effectively working and learning from your homes during this crisis, ensuring the continued – albeit modified - delivery of our education, research, practice, and community programs. I also applaud those employees and students who are working and learning in-person as approved, whether in operations, research, practice, or on experiential rotations, as you assume some level of risk to maintain our mission.

While UMB’s decisions regarding graduation and telework are understandable given the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, they are still disappointing as we are all longing for life to return to some sense of normalcy. Whether at home or in-person, the ongoing effects of the pandemic are stressful and impact us all. I encourage you to lean on and be supportive of your friends and colleagues. Make use of the UMB resources available, such as the Student Counseling Center and the Employee Assistance Program. Also, please continue to communicate regularly with your faculty advisors and your supervisors regarding any assistance or accommodations you may need. My virtual door is also always open for those who want to reach out. Questions can also be submitted via our COVID-19 FAQ form.

Take care,

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP  
Dean and Professor

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