



MEMORANDUM

To: The North Carolina A&T Campus Community
From: Harold L. Martin Sr., Chancellor
Date: March 20, 2020
Re: Coronavirus Update

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HLM', is written over the 'From' and 'Date' lines of the memorandum header.

The past two weeks have been marked by fast-moving changes that have required unprecedented actions at North Carolina A&T. I want to extend my thanks to each of you for the remarkable ways in which you've adapted to those necessary changes, from transitioning face-to-face classes online to moving out of university housing on an expedited schedule. I know these steps have not been easy, but the way we have pulled together as a university will stand us in good stead and diminish the chances of spreading coronavirus in our Aggie family in the days and weeks ahead.

Two significant issues remain unresolved, and I'd like to ask your help in circulating accurate information in your conversations with students and colleagues:

1. **Commencement.** We have made no final decision on how Spring Commencement ceremonies will be handled. However, it is highly unlikely that they will be held as scheduled in May. Discussions are ongoing at the UNC System level regarding how each of the 17 constituent campuses will address this. We expect to have formal guidance soon, but we are not there yet. As soon as a decision is made, our campus community and parents/families of graduating students will be alerted.
2. **Refunds.** Several students and parents have asked how services that have already been paid in advance, such as housing and meal plans, will be addressed, and whether refunds will be forthcoming. This is the subject of a complex, ongoing conversation at the UNC System and state capitol levels in collaboration with chancellors around the system. Again, final decisions have not been reached, but we expect that they will be soon, allowing us to share information widely with students and their families.

I have been pleased to see our faculty and staff moving quickly to telework and reduce the number of individuals on campus. As a reminder, all non-mandatory employees who have not been directed to work at specific locations on campus are being urged to telework, if their position duties are able to be fulfilled from a remote location. Supervisors, if you have any remaining employees who might be able to telework and assist us in implementing the social distancing we should all be practicing, please speak with them today about moving to this format immediately.

Though we have moved quickly and taken thoughtful steps to mitigate the spread of the virus, as a university, state and nation, we clearly will continue to face challenging circumstances in the weeks and months to come. I have every confidence that if we show the diligence and attention to medical advice that we have over the past two weeks, we will all get through this, and that our university will emerge stronger and wiser for what we have learned through the challenges of this pandemic.

Please continue to do all that you can to keep yourself, your loved ones and your classmates and colleagues healthy and safe throughout this difficult time.