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February 26, 2021

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff

I am excited to announce that Concordia University Chicago plans to return to normal campus operations for the Fall 2021 semester. It is our intent to offer face-to-face instruction, to support full occupancy in our residence halls, and to provide students with a wide range of meaningful on-campus experiences.

CUC's dedication to protecting the health and safety of all on-campus students, faculty, and staff remains strong. We understand that many of the COVID-related measures that have become a part of our everyday lives may not go away for some time. Our Emergency Response Team continues to monitor diligently all aspects of the pandemic to ensure that our complete return to campus follows best practices.

This community has developed systems and processes that allow campus activity while also protecting our well-being. Physical distancing, mask wearing, and hand-washing practices continue to be effective, and our contact tracing and COVID-testing procedures have proven very successful, as well. But the true success of those systems results from the diligence each of you has shown toward maintaining a safe campus, with the best interests of the entire CUC community at heart. Thank you!

We have also made significant strides in recent weeks toward having vaccines available for the University community by this summer. In addition, COVID-19 cases continue to decline both locally and nationally. CUC's COVID dashboard for this week shows no current cases.

Although we expect externally imposed restrictions to taper off significantly, we remain bound by official requirements and guidelines set by local, state, and federal governments, the NCAA, and the CDC. We cannot ignore the possibility that the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic could cause us to amend our plan. I am confident in our ability to do so smoothly and successfully, should requirements so dictate.

Over the coming weeks, our internal teams will be working to develop detailed plans related to fall operations. We look forward to sharing those with you as soon as possible, ensuring that students and employees alike have the latest information available to help them make their individual plans for our full return to campus.

As was the case when we first moved to full remote operations last year, pivoting back to an open campus will also need to be a cooperative effort by all members of the University community. I look forward to working toward this common goal. Most of all, I can't wait to welcome you back to campus in August!

Grace and peace,

*Russ*

Russell P. Dawn, DPhil, JD  
President

**Concordia University Chicago**

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**Truth~Freedom~Vocation**