



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

April 29, 2020

University of Virginia Board of Visitors Statement on UVA Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

The University of Virginia Board of Visitors released the following statement today regarding the University's response to the global COVID-19 pandemic:

“On Monday evening the Board of Visitors participated in a virtual meeting to discuss the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our discussion included the actions UVA leadership has already taken to move the University online and to support students, faculty and staff in this period of unprecedented difficulty. We discussed the uncertainty around the progression of the virus in Virginia and the need to prepare for multiple scenarios for how the University may operate in the upcoming fall term. We also received an update on the major financial toll this crisis has taken on the University, particularly on UVA Health as much of its operations have been suspended during this time. Additionally, we took preliminary steps to ensure that the University has expanded capacity to borrow funds if needed in the future.

“This pandemic has disrupted every element of University operations and changed life for members of this community in ways too numerous to count. The creative, compassionate, and resilient response of the UVA leadership, student body, faculty and staff to this crisis is the clearest expression of what President Ryan means when he talks about a University that is great and good. We commend the steps the administration has taken to help mitigate the extraordinary strain this crisis has placed on the most vulnerable members of our community, including establishing new emergency funds to support people struggling with lost income. We recognize the difficulties many people in the UVA community are experiencing as a result of actions that were necessary to stabilize the University's finances and will continue to evaluate the need for additional steps to help our colleagues, friends, and neighbors in this difficult time.

“While no one knows how long this pandemic will last or how severe the costs will be, we are fortunate to have leaders in every corner of this University who are finding ways to deliver on our mission of excellent academic instruction, lifechanging research, world-class health care and strong partnership in the Charlottesville community. The Board of Visitors is grateful for the work and the sacrifice of so many who are responding to this crisis and we are ready to continue the work of navigating this difficult period as one UVA community. We are confident the University of Virginia will endure this crisis, learn some valuable lessons about creativity and resilience, and continue its pursuit of being the best public university in the country by 2030.”