Dear Students,

The confluence of a global health pandemic and an economic recession have created unprecedented challenges for us all. It is with empathy and compassion that we look to the future and envision a path forward that supports the well-being of students, faculty and staff. We are here to support you through this time of uncertainty and will continue to evolve our approach to learning, teaching and support as we look to the fall semester.

The pandemic has generated great strain on our students, just as it has on many communities across the world. We know that this semester may present many challenges for you, and given this, we understand that the Fall semester is not what you envisioned. It’s not what anyone at Sheridan had planned. As a result, we are making changes to support you, your well-being and your success.

We know that pursuing a post-secondary program is a substantial commitment and that the pandemic has caused additional stress. Sheridan is committed to providing the same high-quality program substance and quality that you have come to expect from us. Our goal is to be as flexible as possible and continue to provide the learning environment that you need.

Program substance and quality

Difficulties occur, remote or hybrid learning experience, accessibility over academic success, and the need for synchronous and asynchronous learning, as well as resilience and adaptability. Our program fees will cover remote delivery and deadlines.

Accessibility and policies regarding program delivery and deadlines

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Remote delivery

Sheridan has already made the difficult but necessary decision to lay off some employees and cut operating expenses by 28%. Through cost avoidance, revenue generation or the use of reserves, regrettably, Sheridan has also mobilized 25 staff from its Centre for Teaching and Learning to support remote delivery for faculty and students alike. These include, but are not limited to, a new remote online exam proctoring tool; a course collaboration tool that will support synchronous (at the same time) and asynchronous (at different times) lecturing through recording capabilities and video assignments; and, a video collaboration tool for recording video lectures.

The pandemic has generated great strain at Sheridan, just as it has done at many other institutions across the world. The pandemic has forced us to rethink and reinvent the way we teach, learn, support and nurture our students. We acknowledge that this has been a challenging time for many of you, and we are committed to supporting you through this transition.

Reinvesting that money will sustain us through this crisis. As a registered not-for-profit, we have a fiduciary responsibility to our stakeholders, including our students, faculty, staff, donors, and the broader community. We are committed to the integrity of our programs and ensuring students’ learning outcomes are met; to the term economic sustainability of Sheridan; and, to remain focused on achieving the priorities and enablers outlined in our Strategic Plan.

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Please continue to communicate with your professor, who has the authority to reset deadlines if/as appropriate. It is important to discuss any concerns or questions you may have with your professor or advisor.

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Best regards,

[Name]

Senior Vice-President, Academic Affairs