



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

February 11, 2021

EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLORS/PROVOSTS

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the University of California Washington Program (UCDC) has operated remotely since spring and will remain so through AY 2020-2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing to inform you that UCDC will remain remote and the Washington Center building closed to students at least through summer 2021. I have reached this disappointing decision after consulting health officials, UCDC Executive Director Helen Shapiro and her staff, and Vice Provost Susan Carlson. The Chair of UCDC's Governing Council and Academic Advisory Committee have also been involved in discussions about the program's status.

Obviously, this will be most upsetting for our undergraduates who had hoped to be in Washington, D.C. this summer. Few of us anticipated such drastic measures would be needed for so long when we first closed the building last March. However, the health and safety of our students and staff are always our top priority. The limited availability and uncertain rollout of the vaccine and the absence of a UCDC-affiliated health facility to perform surveillance testing, contact tracing, and isolate and treat infected students, make opening in time for summer term unrealistic. Moreover, Washington, D.C., like much of California, has not come close to returning to pre-pandemic life. Most internship sites are remote. Museums, movie houses, and many public buildings are closed. The city currently requires all residents traveling from California – as well as virtually every other state – to quarantine for two weeks upon arrival.

UCDC will run a remote summer program in conjunction with campuses as it did last year. Washington and campus staff will communicate the decision to students.

We are more optimistic about fall. Vaccinations and progress in managing the virus may make traveling to, as well as interning and living in Washington, D.C. possible. We are exploring ways to provide testing and care by partnering with local universities and health facilities. A number of health-related improvements have been made to the building this year, such as contactless faucets and soap dispensers, in anticipation of students' return. Still, we must be realistic about the continued uncertainty surrounding the virus and the multiple factors that will inform our decision on whether to open and at what capacity.

We will make an announcement regarding the program's status for fall by April 15. The remarkable success of this year's remote program is a testament to the passion and hard work of everyone associated with UCDC. We are thrilled that so many students – roughly 360 by spring – will have been able to take advantage of this life-changing program, even under such

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trying circumstances. Interest and commitment to UCDC remains strong. We appreciate everyone's perseverance and look forward to moving beyond these unsettling times.

Please contact me, Executive Director Shapiro, or Vice Provost Carlson with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael T. Brown, Ph.D.
Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

cc: Associate Professor Beckmann
Executive Director Shapiro
Associate Academic Director Diascro
Associate Academic Director Sandalow
Director Osorio-O'Dea