

Good afternoon, all. I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to begin settling back into a more normal routine.

I am sure that each of you has seen County Judge Hidalgo's Stay-at-Home order, which remains in effect from tonight through April 3. With that new news, I have one update and two notes in response to questions I have received:

1. UPDATE: Campus will remain closed for an additional week -- through Sunday, April 5, 2020. We will open campus for a few hours one day next week in case folks need access to the building. Watch for a future announcement regarding the date and time that campus will be open, as well as the method to reserve time to enter the building.

2. NOTE FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS: We have not made a decision on graduation at this time. Our goal is not to cancel or to postpone the May graduation. From a practical standpoint, however, we cannot today guarantee that graduation will go forward as planned; at this early stage of the crisis, it is impossible to know what the next few weeks will bring. (In addition, knowing that many students have family members who would want to fly to Houston for graduation, I wouldn't want anyone making travel reservations based on information that may have to change.) On the other side, it is premature to cancel or to postpone graduation -- which is still some 7 1/2 weeks away -- based on the information available to us now. I thank you for your patience. As soon as there is enough information that allows us to make a reasonable decision, we will let you know.

3. NOTE FOR STUDENTS TAKING THE JULY 2020 TEXAS BAR EXAM: As of today, there is no change to the Texas Bar Exam schedule. I reached out to the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas BLE this morning, and there have been no decisions regarding the Texas Bar Exam this July. The Supreme Court and the BLE are very aware that students graduating this summer have taken courses in anticipation of the Texas Bar Exam, rather than of the UBE. The Supreme Court and the BLE have indicated that they will keep us apprised of any developments, and I will share them in real time.

If there are any questions, please send a note to health@stcl.edu so that we can address them.

I am very appreciative of all of the hard work that so many have put in so that our school can continue to operate effectively despite social distancing edicts. And, I appreciate the diligence that everyone is putting into their preparation for class -- faculty and student alike. This is a great community, and we are proving it every day.

In the meantime, please continue to be safe!

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