



Thursday, April 16, 2020

Dear Graduating Seniors and Graduate Students:

After our March 23, 2020, announcement about the cancellation of our 2020 Commencement Ceremony, we heard from many of you as well as your parents, expressing your disappointment, even anger, about this decision. We assured you then and we reiterate now that if it had been safe to host our traditional Commencement on campus, we certainly would have preferred that -- because you deserve to be recognized for your hard work and to celebrate your achievements.

We told you at that time that we would continue to talk about alternative ways to recognize, award and celebrate our graduates, and those conversations are ongoing. We have established a Commencement Committee to take that conversation one step further and hopefully formalize a decision when the time is right. Representatives from the Heidelberg faculty, administration, and the senior class held their first meeting virtually two days ago, on Tuesday, April 14.

Because of the unknown duration of the pandemic and state mandates regarding social distancing and other precautions, it's extremely difficult to pin down a date or define what the celebration will look like.

We want you to know that this is equally important to us. We are getting input from faculty, students and administrators, and this committee will be diligent in working through several alternatives. We will keep you posted about the process. You will be the first to know when we have plans finalized and ready to announce.

Sincerely,

Dr. Beth Schwartz, Provost

Dr. Chris Abrams, Dean of Student Affairs