

June 18, 2020

Dear students,

As we approach the end of an unprecedented semester and begin the exam period, it is clear to all that both you and we have made special efforts to overcome challenges that no one had ever encountered. I know that for many of you, this has been – and continues to be – a difficult time.

These past two weeks have been spent in conversation with the student union and your class representatives and I set out to share with you the initiatives that we have undertaken in order to make things easier for you in the coming days and months.

Our main challenge has been to find the right balance between strictly protecting your health, continuing the school year, and providing student services. With the goal of retaining continuity of studies at the highest level, we have invested tremendous resources in transitioning to distance learning and remote service delivery, all in compliance with the health guidelines for the prevention of the spread of the Coronavirus.

As the semester comes to its conclusion, it is important to evaluate your academic achievements. The mechanism for doing so has been put in place after careful consideration and consultation with the deans, lecturers, and student representatives. One clear understanding is that no single ideal solution exists, which will suit everyone. For this reason, we have decided on a balanced solution portfolio which will provide proper and adequate solutions even for the most exceptional cases and unique student needs.

In the attached documents you will find exam guidelines, clarifications and technical details. I will, therefore, in this letter, address only the primary decisions made. First and foremost, the decision to conduct the majority of exams online. This is required due to the constraints and procedures defined by the Ministry of Health for conduct during this pandemic period, i.e. the restriction on classroom occupancy. Most of the exams that must be conducted in-person, will need to be held simultaneously online, in order to cater to students who belong to risk groups or find themselves in quarantine. Admittedly, this poses a complex challenge, both pedagogically and logistically.

To address this challenge and many others that have been ongoing throughout the semester, the following decisions were made: 1) each exam will be offered on three dates from which the student will pick two; 2) students will be able to choose three courses which they can convert to a binary grade

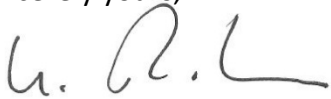
(pass/fail), not to be calculated into the GPA; 3) some deans received approval for home exams or papers, instead of supervised, time-restricted exams. These measures are being taken in commiseration with the unique and unprecedented situation that you encountered in your studies this semester.

Finally, I ask you to bear in mind a principal issue: the integrity of exams. We, at the IDC, view you, the students, as partners, carrying forth the vision of value-driven leadership. It is in difficult times that it is most essential to demonstrate your ethical behavior, honest conduct, and respect for your peers as an expression of your moral fortitude.

The partnership between students, faculty, and administration has been the pride of the IDC. With trust and dialogue, we will forge through these challenging times as well. You are welcome to reach out to the Dean of Students and the administration, with any issues.

I wish you much success in your exams and look forward to meeting you again personally, to the campus experience, and to studying "the new interdisciplinary approach".

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'U. R. L.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Uriel Reichman
President and Founder