

Dear Students and Colleagues:

Hope all of you are staying safe from this second wave of Covid-19. I would like to convey my deepest sympathies for and solidarity with all those in our University community who either lost their loved ones to this dreaded virus or have had to endure its severity. We are still struggling to cope with the loss of valuable lives of a faculty member, Dr. P. Kennedy of the Department of Communication; a Research Scholar in the School of Computer and Information Sciences, Mr. Mallikarjun, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Human Rights, Dr. G. Murali Manohar, and Mr. Srinivas, a non-teaching staff member in the Department of Sociology. My sincere condolences to their colleagues, students, and families.

Yesterday at a meeting with Heads and Deans, we took the decision to advance our summer vacation, which will now be from May 10-June 8, 2021. With the surge in Covid-19 cases across the country, it has become extremely stressful for students to focus on their online classes and for faculty members who have been trying to balance health crises at their homes with teaching and counselling students. I hope this one-month vacation will be a welcome break for everyone, giving time for bodies and minds to heal. I hope when we resume classes and exams as per the schedule announced by the University, we would be able to come back re-energized and, hopefully, with more of us vaccinated. In the meantime, I appeal to all the students who are on campus to return safely to their respective homes immediately, unless State/local curfews and lockdowns prevent them from doing so. This is important not only to ensure your safety, but also to relieve hostel and maintenance staff who have been working under extreme pressure during this past year and more.

I would like to thank all the faculty members who, amidst their own struggles for vaccination and personal and family medical crises, have been diligently teaching their classes and guiding their students, apart from continuing with their own research activities. Please spare a thought for our excellent non-teaching staff who have been maintaining the administrative backbone of the University despite facing great odds in their personal lives. Our collective sense of gratitude should also be expressed towards the Chief Warden's and the DSW's offices and their staff members as well as for our Security and the University Health Centre for braving exposure and infection to guarantee minimum services for our students and other members of the campus community.

I am confident that collectively, with proper personal care and sustaining Covid protocols on the campus, we, as an institution, will emerge stronger and more resilient from the current challenges we are facing from the pandemic.

Thanking you all and seeking your continued cooperation,

With warmest regards,

Prof. Appa Rao Podile

Vice-Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat
University of Hyderabad
Professor C.R. Rao Road
P.O. Central University
Hyderabad 500 046
Telangana, India

Phones: +91-(0)40-23010121, 23132000
Fax: +91-(0)40-23011090
Email: vc@uohyd.ac.in, vc@uohyd.ernet.in
