

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Message from the President

Dear Students and Parents,

I'd like to express my profound gratitude to you all for your cooperation and responses during the COVID-19 pandemic since the start of this year. While we still do not know what lies ahead, university education is expected to adjust to the new normal. Today I present our basic policy during the summer break and the Fall semester. Rather than turn inward or be intimidated by the circumstances we face, we hope to gain your understanding and cooperation and while taking every precaution, move step by step toward the future, leaving no one behind.

### **Summer intensive courses and Fall semester classes**

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we set activity restrictions to Level 3 and partially lifted our restrictions on campus entry. While carefully practicing preventive measures for the spread of Covid-19 by avoiding the so-called '3Cs' (closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded spaces and close-contact settings), we began to open the library and other university facilities. We have been working since toward the possibility of resuming classes on campus.

In the summer and Fall, we need to develop new forms of teaching and learning corresponding to the circumstances, while staying vigilant to reduce the risk of infection and prevent the spread of the virus. Therefore, as of July 24<sup>th</sup> the university will change the activity restrictions to newly-set Level 2.5. While our most important consideration remains stopping the spread of the virus, the university will resume face-to-face classes in combination with online classes for the summer intensive courses and the Fall semester. Face-to-face classes will be limited to major courses for which in-class instructions are essential, such as lab experiments, practical skill learning, and practical training. The list of applicable courses will be posted in Sophie soon.

### **Opening of campus facilities and the university dormitory**

This means most classes will continue to be held online in the Fall semester. We can therefore welcome only a limited number of students on campus to take face-to-face classes. Thinking of those first-year students entering our university with great hope, and all our existing students who were looking forward to a full university life, this was a tough decision to make. However, I believe that our priority at this moment should be your health and safety.

That said, I understand that some of you may wish to use the library or take online classes on campus. Therefore, we will open the dormitory from September as scheduled, and enable those who do not live in the dorm to use the facilities or take online classes on campus.

In particular, there are not a few first-year students who have not had the chance to come to campus since matriculation and who may be concerned about student life. We are preparing opportunities for you to communicate with fellow first-year students and seniors, and attend information sessions to decide your majors from your second year. Additionally, under certain conditions, we plan to permit the use of campus facilities for extracurricular activities. Of course, we will set up a system that allows our students to participate in various activities online without coming to campus, and we will give due consideration to equal learning opportunities and satisfactory academic achievement.

### **Creating together the new normal and our joint future**

In developing academic activities in this environment, we must reduce the infection risk as much as possible during activities on and off campus, and during the commute to campus. For this reason, I sincerely ask every member of the Sacred Heart community - students, faculty, staff and alumna - to follow the university guidelines against COVID-19. The guidelines will be made available shortly. These changes may need to be revised as we monitor the progress of the virus and changes to the policies and measures taken by the national and local governments.

The University of the Sacred Heart is an academic community where students, faculty and staff, alumna and families work together. We will strive to overcome this unprecedented situation together and use this experience – however painful - to help create a new daily life and a new future.

Thank you again for your continuous understanding and support.