Dear Students,

Greetings. We think we can speak for educators across campus when we say that we miss our shared learning spaces very much. We miss thinking and learning alongside you. There are so many people working each day to find the safest way to come back together as soon as we can—and to provide as much academic continuity as possible until then.

As you recently learned, our effort to provide academic continuity includes a summer session to meet the needs of particular student constituencies. We encourage you to take a moment to read over the attached summer session information sheet if you have questions about eligibility. We are truly sorry that we are unable to serve more of you.

In the interest of full transparency, we are writing to all Grinnell students to provide an update about planning for the summer session. Members of faculty and staff are currently working together to finalize a limited slate of courses that will meet the very diverse needs of different student constituencies. Our priority is to provide a selection of courses that represents the breadth of our liberal arts curriculum, balancing offerings across divisions and levels. This is a tall order when we can offer no more than eight courses.

A final round of selection will take place over the next week so that we can announce specific courses by Friday, May 1, with registration set to begin on Monday, May 4. At this point, the potential courses will be drawn from among these academic areas: anthropology; computer science; economics; education; English; environmental studies; general literary studies; gender, women’s and sexuality studies; history; philosophy; physics; political science; psychology; religious studies; sociology; and theatre and dance.

We all have such admiration for the courage and determination you are displaying in persevering in your studies despite incredibly challenging circumstances. Thank you for the patience and generosity you have shown over the past many weeks as we all work to do our best.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your advisors if you have questions about the summer session.

Sincerely,

Mark Levandoski, Associate Dean of the College and Professor of Chemistry
Caleb Elfenbein, Member-at-Large, Executive Council and Associate Professor of History and Religious Studies