June 22, 2020

Dear VSU Community:

We value all of our students and your on-campus experience. Our current focus is on the health and well-being of the on-campus community. In our response to COVID-19, the university continues to assess ways to promote physical distancing in all areas, including residence halls. We have carefully looked at many different scenarios and the impact they would have on the entire VSU community: students, faculty, and staff. In following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American College Health Association, the Virginia Department of Health, and local health professionals, we decreased the on-campus housing capacity to facilitate safe practices.

As much as we want all of our residents to return to campus, it is not safe to do so at this time. After many meetings and consultations, priority was given to Freshmen, Graduating Seniors, Student Athletes, and Student Leaders. These groups were selected so VSU could continue offering its transformational experience to new students and simultaneously support seniors who are at the culmination of their journey at VSU. Looking at available space in residence halls, we considered the number of students in each class in an attempt to have as many as possible return to campus. We did not have enough space for the entire sophomore or junior class to stay on campus. The remaining spaces were enough to accommodate our rosters of student athletes and student leaders. The student leaders are needed to assist with mentoring and programming for new students in the residence halls.

Beginning the week of June 22, 2020, we will cancel and reassign housing accommodation as needed and in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. This is not what we want, but it is what we need to do to keep Virginia State University as a preferred institution for higher learning.

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