

Making Feb. 11 a Student Well-Being Day

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Dear SLU community,

It is great to see everyone back on campus for the spring semester. I want to thank all of you for your hard work in keeping campus safe. Thanks to you, we just completed our second week of the term, with minimal impacts from the increase in COVID-19 cases during move-in testing.

After asking for input from many members of our campus community, I am announcing that **classes will be cancelled on Friday, Feb. 11** for a well-being day for all undergraduate and graduate students, *except those in the School of Law and School of Medicine, whose accreditation and other restrictions prevent cancelling class. Additionally, some professional programs with clinical rotation commitments or specialized learning experiences may continue in cases where they cannot be rescheduled. Students in these areas will hear from their Dean if their classes will still be held.*

The University will remain open for all other business.

I reached this decision after conversations with faculty, students, staff and others who are ever mindful of the mental health of our campus community as we began the semester under increased anxiety brought on by the omicron variant of COVID, and as we work through eight consecutive weeks to begin the semester without a scheduled break.

We intend to have numerous activities around campus on this day, for a much-needed and well-deserved break. Be on the lookout for more information as those are finalized.

While this change could impact instructors' plans, I am encouraged to hear from many faculty who are eager to give students a small break amid the longest block of classes this term. I ask that if you need to make up content from that day, please do so in a way that does not add undue stress after the fact.

The fall was difficult for many of us. As we look to future academic years, we expect to adjust academic calendars to allow for more of these well-being days. I hope to announce changes for next academic year before planning begins. Additionally, our Student Well-Being Task Force continues its work to engage with all areas of our campus as they develop recommendations to better address student well-being in the coming years.

I appreciate everyone's work on this important issue.

Best,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost