March 26, 2021 – Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

As another busy week is coming to an end, I am happy to report that in addition to vaccines being more widely available from local providers, we are working with a partner to begin distributing additional vaccines on campus starting tomorrow.

With thanks to Wild Health, our new COVID-19 testing partner, we will have 100 vaccine doses available on Saturday morning as part of their partnership with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, free of charge, with no insurance component required. Our understanding is that more campus vaccination opportunities will follow as part of a goal that Dr. Steven Stack, Kentucky’s Commissioner for Public Health, has to vaccinate college students before they leave for home at the end of academic year. As of now, we are one of five colleges in the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU) to be included. Sign-up information will be on its way very soon.

I am also grateful for the engaged discussions we had at the faculty and staff Zoom forums this week. I appreciate the transparency and openness of those campus conversations, even if virtual and often through the chat feature. John Wilson and Russ Strunk have provided important leadership moderating these meetings.

My particular gratitude goes to Dr. Mei Li Inouye, assistant professor of Chinese, who graciously offered her personal insights into recent anti-Asian racism and violence, along with its distressing and ongoing history, and the unfortunately painful experiences she and other members of our campus community have encountered. We remain committed to standing firmly against anti-Asian racism and violence. To help us be better colleagues and supporters, our team in ODI, led by Dr. Andrea Abrams, have a number of upcoming events scheduled to help us develop better cultural competencies in support of our students, staff, and faculty as we work to oppose and protect against the unacceptable bias, xenophobia, and violent hatred that has gone on for far too long.

On a related front, as we further embrace anti-racist actions at the College, I am pleased that an anonymous gift has been made by a friend of Centre to close the gap in funding needed to remove and relocate the Confederate monument from our neighboring church, as well as to support Centre faculty and students in future educational programming related to the monument and its context in American history. Our meetings with church officials and the city
continue, and we remain committed to expediting the process of its removal. I remain grateful to all the students and faculty involved in keeping this effort’s momentum moving forward and promoting an anti-racist culture on our campus and in our region.

I close, as always, with best wishes for a peaceful, safe, and healthy weekend.

Sincerely,
Milton