

Sent on behalf of Dr. Ernest Jeffries:

Dear Students,

I hope that you had a restful Spring Break and are ready to finish the spring semester strong. For those who are graduating this spring, I offer you my heartfelt congratulations.

First, I want to call to your attention to opportunities in the days ahead that are designed to enhance your academic experience. Please plan to stop by the Student Activities Center from 1–3 p.m. tomorrow for the Palmer College Career Fair where more than 30 vendors will be advertising numerous positions. The Sankofa Leadership Conference, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, offers a slate of impressive and inspiring young alumni of color to lead conversations about leadership on campus and leadership beyond life at MBU. We'll share information soon about more upcoming events that will prepare you for life after graduation.

Also, as you know, registration for Summer and Fall term classes opened yesterday. You should have received an email from the Registrar's Office with detailed information about how to register for classes; please make sure you have read it carefully and thoroughly.

Due to some staffing transitions, you may have noticed changes to course offerings, including faculty assignments and other course details. Last week, the MBU administration and board did not renew the annual contracts of seven faculty members. This course of action is part of a longer-term repositioning and vision to strengthen our focus on you, our students, and how to best equip you for your life and career. We acknowledge how difficult such decisions are.

You may have questions about how this will impact your academic experience. **We want to assure you that you will be able to continue with your course of study as planned.** As always, your advisor remains available to you for individual guidance. We are all working diligently to ensure as limited disruption as possible throughout this process and will keep you informed of any further changes.

We will be hosting a series of student listening sessions on campus to address any of your questions or concerns.

Student listening sessions with me, Dr. Paul Menzer, Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott, and Brig. Gen. Terry Djuric will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, and Wednesday, March 29, in Francis Auditorium and on Thursday, March 30 via Zoom. These meetings will be divided by class: First-year students and sophomores will gather on Tuesday, juniors and seniors on Wednesday, and the virtual session will be open to all students at the following link:

<https://marybaldwin-edu.zoom.us/j/83346042762?pwd=b3Q3S3ZHVXI5Wi9ZR1pkUUFGcHUwQT09>

Students, please know that we are here to support you during this period of transition. You are at the heart of all that we do at Mary Baldwin. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly by phone (540) 887-7045 or at this email address with any questions or concerns. We look forward to providing you with more updates in the days to come.

Sincerely

Dr. Ernest Jeffries
Vice President of Student Engagement