Dear fellow Trojans,

We are writing today to express our support for you and your wellbeing during the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID-19. Now and always, the health and safety of our fellow students is our utmost priority, and we are working alongside the University to implement measures that are in the best interest of our constituents. Importantly, please make sure to read through the memos sent by President Folt and Provost Zukoski on Friday, March 13th.

We also want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for the overwhelming support for the USC community that we have seen among students. In this time of great difficulty, we have been moved by the empathy and sense of community embodied by so many. We encourage you to maintain and increase your support, kindness, and openness with your fellow Trojans as we move forward into the next few weeks. Remember that anyone can get and spread COVID-19, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, etc. Racism, xenophobia, and similar stigmatizing behaviors are unwelcome and directly contradict our collective mission to create a safe and inclusive environment for all of our students. Please speak out against hateful rhetoric wherever possible.

We recognize that there has been some confusion and an influx of communications over the past few weeks. We also realize that you may have questions about the University’s course of action regarding the rest of the semester, some of which we can answer, and some of which we cannot. We want to take this opportunity to inform you of some critical resources that exist, what we are doing, changes in USG and GSG operations, and answers to frequently asked questions. Please understand that some of the information below may change as new policies and recommendations are announced.

Information, Updates, and Resources

- Official USC website for COVID-19 updates, FAQs, and resources: usc.edu/coronavirus
- USC Student Health COVID-19 hotline: 213-740-6291
  - You may also email covid19@usc.edu with COVID-related questions
  - General medical questions and care: 213-740-9355 (WELL)
- USG’s COVID-19 FAQ and resources page: usg.usc.edu/coronavirus

What We Are Doing

We are actively working with the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of the Provost, and other University departments to help resolve some of these issues, advise on future communications, and relay information to relevant communities.

As decisions are made, we have been bringing the concerns we have heard from students to University officials. This information is helping to update the usc.edu/coronavirus FAQ page as well as details
outlined in the latest memo from the Provost. However, the best way to express your concerns or have your questions answered is to email covid19@usc.edu. While USG and GSG leaders do not have more information at this time, we continue to be in frequent contact with University officials, so feel free to reach out to us by using our contact information below.

**USG and GSG Changes in Operations**

Moving forward, USG and GSG will be operating exclusively via online platforms. Due to new University policies, the following changes in operations will be in place until April 14th (note: these may be extended as University policies change):

- **Temporary hold on reviewing funding applications** for RSOs, Programming member organizations (USG), Travel Grant applications (GSG), and USG-funded conference travel.
- **All USG- and GSG-sponsored events and travel are canceled until April 14th**, including Springfest.
- The USG office (TCC 224), GSG office (SKS 410), and Campus Activities Office (SKS 410) are closed until further notice. Students may reach out to these offices by emailing usg@usc.edu, gsgpres@usc.edu, and stuacts@usc.edu, respectively.
- USG and GSG Senate meetings will be conducted online. To stay updated, subscribe to the USG newsletter [here](http://usg.usc.edu) and GSG newsletters [here](http://gsg.usc.edu).
- Recruitment for 2020-21 USG roles will continue as scheduled with interviews being hosted online over Zoom.
- Office hours will not be held in-person, but all student government officers will remain available via email, phone, and Zoom. For USG contacts, [click here](http://usg.usc.edu). For GSG contacts, [click here](http://gsg.usc.edu).

**Your Safety Moving Forward**

For your own safety and wellbeing, as well as the greater Los Angeles community:

- Avoid traveling to and from campus as much as possible, even if you do not feel sick.
- Follow good hygiene recommendations, such as frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (tip: the Fight Song is the perfect amount of time!), avoiding touching your eyes/nose/face, and coughing/sneezing into your elbow.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick, and stay home when you are sick.
- **Take care of yourself, both physically and mentally.** This is a stressful time, and the uncertainty and rapidly changing policies can increase levels of anxiety. Take breaks. Rest. Prioritize keeping yourself healthy.

As the situation rapidly evolves in Los Angeles and across the globe, we will continue to advise USC officials on the best course of action for students and our greater community. This is a difficult time for many and we will continue to help where possible.
If you are aware of any resources that you would like us to include in USG’s COVID-19 page, please email usg@usc.edu or reach out to us personally using our emails below. Whether you are staying around campus or traveling, we encourage you to stay connected with the University’s updates. Otherwise, we are sending you our best. If there is anything we can do to help, please let us know.

Stay Safe and Fight On!

Trenton Stone, Undergraduate Student Government President (usgpres@usc.edu)
Sam Cwalina, Interim Graduate Student Government President (gsgpres@usc.edu)

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Frequently Asked Questions — More info available at usc.edu/coronavirus/faq

- **Will graduation ceremonies be canceled?**
  - At this time, the University has not canceled graduation ceremonies or any public events or gatherings beyond April 12th. We encourage all students to stay updated with changing circumstances by regularly checking your emails for University memos. Please note that USG and GSG do not coordinate commencement ceremonies.

- **Why were classes moved online?**
  - Social distancing is an effective public health strategy to slow virus spread, and is currently being implemented at over 50 universities across the country. The goal is to reduce the amount of community contact.

- **Is campus still open?**
  - Some campus buildings remain open and many operations continue to partially function, including student housing, EVK dining hall, libraries, research support, and health services. The university has business continuity plans in place to ensure ongoing operations of core functions and essential services. Please check campus websites such as [Hospitality](#) and [Libraries](#) for any potential changes to operating hours and services.

- **Are students being kicked out of USC Housing?**
  - According to a recent [memo from the Provost](#), the University is currently asking, but not forcing, students to leave University-owned housing for spring break, and to not return until at least April 13th. At this time, students do not need to move all of their belongings out.
  - USC will allow students to remain in their current living spaces if they notify USC Housing by emailing housing@usc.edu. Those leaving campus for extended breaks are encouraged by the University to avoid campus and resume their classes online. Again, we encourage all students to stay updated with changing circumstances by regularly checking your emails for University memos.
• **What should I do if clinical rotations or lab work are required for my degree program?**
  ○ Lab work may continue as long as appropriate social distancing and good hygiene can be maintained. Some programs have developed department-specific guidelines related to these concerns. The Office of Research has also established a [website](http://sites.usc.edu/coronavirus/research-related-updates/) for research-related updates.
  ○ Information about clinical experiences will be handled separately by schools. Please contact your program advisor for guidance regarding your specific degree program requirements.

• **How does this affect international students?**
  ○ The University continues to update information on how new campus policies and national restrictions affect international students. Please see [sites.usc.edu/coronavirus/international-students/](http://sites.usc.edu/coronavirus/international-students/) for the most up-to-date information.