Cardinal Family,

Welcome to the third week of the semester; we hope your courses are off to a great start.

We appreciate that most of the Cardinal Family has followed our public health policies around wearing masks, maintaining physical distance and practicing good personal hygiene to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus. However, some people are beginning to ignore these policies. This has become a significant issue in some of our large public spaces, particularly Ekstrom Library.

For the safety of our students, faculty and staff, beginning this week we will have dedicated individuals monitoring and reminding patrons that they must wear masks while in the library. Those who do not comply will be asked to leave the facility and referred to the Dean of Students Office for potential disciplinary action according to the Student Code of Conduct, which requires compliance with pandemic policies.

We know that the ongoing pandemic is challenging all of us, and we all are weary of wearing masks. But we ask you to please consider members of our community who are at higher risk and more vulnerable to the virus. With more contagious strains of COVID making their way across our nation, the risk of infection is even greater and wearing masks is even more necessary to protect our more vulnerable faculty, staff and students.

We thank the vast majority who are complying with the policies; you are helping us keep our campus safe. We look forward to even better compliance – and a safer environment for all of us – through the Spring semester and beyond.

Beth A. Boehm
Executive Vice President and University Provost

Michael Mardis
Dean of Students