

July 31, 2020

Greetings RSO Leaders,

As announced by President Rudd yesterday, the fall 2020 semester will have an implemented phased return to our campus, with the first phase being predominantly virtual/remote. This means the University of Memphis is still in Phase 1. **Under the current phase, there shall be no in person student events.** This applies to events both ON and OFF campus. If your organization is found to be hosting in person events you will be given ONE warning from Student Leadership & Involvement. If your organization is found to be hosting in person events a second time your organization will be suspended for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Meaning, your organization will not be able to apply for funding, awards, or office space or reserve space in EMS once we move to phase 2. All current in person student events taking place during the first month (now – September 18) of school will automatically be deleted from EMS.

In addition to no in person events, all student travel is currently suspended. Groups or individuals who are interested in attending conferences, workshops, etc. should do so in a virtual setting.

In these ever changing times it important, now more than ever, to stay connected. Even though classes are starting virtual you still have a community here at the University of Memphis. Research has consistently shown that community has played a large role in student's success and retention during their time at a university. Just because we cannot physically meet on campus does not mean we cannot stay connected. Personally, I like to look at these situations as *staying physically distant but socially connected*. It will take all of us to create virtual engagement opportunities. Please know, SLI is here to support you and your organizations during this challenging time.

In an effort to best support you, attached to this email you will find a best practice guide for virtual events. In this guide there are resources on leveraging TigerZone to your advantage, online meeting platforms, online broadcasting platforms, online chat platforms, video conferencing tips, virtual engagement idea and a list of virtual entertainment options. My hope is that by using these resources your organization will be able to continue to connect with, and grow your membership. It will also be housed on the Student Leadership & Involvement website.

If your organization applied and received Student Event Allocation funding or office space in the Involvement Zone you will be receiving separate emails with guidelines and accommodations for your events and spaces.

In these unprecedented times I ask that you remain flexible and patient as we move through the phases. It takes all of us digging deep and working hard to keep each other safe and healthy. During my time at the University of Memphis I have been continually impressed with the Tiger Spirit that surrounds our school. You, dear students, are some of the most resilient young leaders

I have ever had the chance of working with and serving. This is not how any of us planned for the semester to start, but we press boldly on with the situation at hand. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Go Tigers Go!

MK Tyler, M.Ed.

She, her, hers (what's this?)

Senior Coordinator, Student Engagement

Student Leadership & Involvement