



Message from the President
April 20, 2020

Dear Cal Maritime Cadets,

I write you today, as planned, to inform you about our planning for a resumption of face-to-face classroom work and preparations for TSGB cruise, commercial cruise and international experience. I am grateful for the immense patience that everyone has exercised during this incredibly disruptive, frustrating and difficult time. The faculty, staff and campus leadership have been working to create a safe, health-first approach to completion of the Spring 2020 semester. I know how important it is to complete these professional STCW courses for graduating seniors, rising seniors, commercial cruise cadets and the Class of 2023 license-track cadets. I also understand the impacts on shoreside majors the substitution of an international experience alternative. In both cases, we are highly committed to keeping you on track to graduation. What follows is a bit lengthy, and it outlines some *potential* dates for several stages of our return to instruction.

We are now in the last stage of planning for a return to campus for license-track cadets. The return to campus begins with an orderly move out protocol for those cadets who have completed their Spring 2020 studies through alternative/online teaching formats. This will allow us to prepare the campus (prepping classrooms, cleaning housing, stocking dining, etc.) for the arrival of our returning cadets. Once we receive approval from the Governor's office that cadets may return to campus you will be surveyed with a health questionnaire while at home, and health screened upon your designated arrival date and time by campus employees. As you return, please be prepared for a different campus experience. Each cadet will be housed individually in a residence hall room (yes, former roommates will be separated). Meals on campus will be either delivered to your residence hall, grab-and-go, or be provided within the dining hall with limited seating. Everyone will be wearing a mask when they are outside their room or office, and there will be stronger protocols for your STCW classes. You will be health screened daily - this is very important to keeping everyone healthy.

Social distancing will continue in every aspect of campus life - so it will be quite different. We have reviewed the breadth and depth of planning with the cadet Triad leaders (outgoing and incoming) and the Provost will be covering this same information tomorrow with the Provost's Council of academic administrators, Academic Senate Executive Committee leaders and faculty department chairs. We are communicating the plans to a broad array of leaders - faculty, staff and cadets. We are ready to make the decision to execute the plan - once conditions allow, which at this point is a continued regression of the COVID-19 virus in California, continuation of Solano County at a low-risk status, and permission from Sacramento to resume instruction.

Once the Governor's office permits us to return to campus, we will begin a series of steps and dates to facilitate the shortest possible period of time for course completion. Here's a PROPOSED and POTENTIAL set of dates that indicate how we will proceed once we receive permission to return to instruction:

Begin return to campus: *No sooner than* May 10

Note: All subsequent dates are tied to the return to campus date.

3 days later:	Face-to-face instruction begins	Tentatively May 13
24 days more:	Face-to-face instruction complete	Tentatively Jun 6
4 days more:	TSGB Cruise begins	Tentatively June 10
7 days more:	TSGB departs Vallejo	Tentatively June 17
47 days more	TSGB arrives Vallejo	Tentatively August 3
7 days more	TSGB Cruise concludes	Tentatively August 10

These dates, again are *notional and representative* of the steps we will take to deliver a training cruise on TSGB. For our graduating seniors, this indicates that your earliest departure date from campus would be June 6 **IF** the return to campus date of May 10 were approved. Similarly, for those headed out on commercial cruise, you will see that your earliest date of departure from campus would be June 6. Any slippage on the return to campus date would mean a day for day slip in the conclusion dates.

Let me address a few more topics that are of keen interest to your Corps classmate:

International Experience:

I know there is some angst over the international experience alternative virtual course, but I recommend that those of you eligible for the coursework to take advantage of this opportunity to stay on track toward your degree.

Commercial Cruise:

We are engaged with MARAD and industry companies to maximize opportunities for those with billets and to acquire additional billets for the 16 cadets awaiting assignment.

Commencement:

As hard as we are trying, it seems unlikely that we will be able to hold an in-person graduation before Fall 2020. Most of the seniors polled indicated that this is too late for their liking. As a result, it is likely we'll host an online/virtual graduation celebration. For those swearing in as Merchant Marine officers and/or Armed Forces officers, planning is underway to hold appropriate ceremonies on campus (while you are here) to mark that occasion.

OK, over the next several days you will begin receiving emails regarding a number of different issues:

1. An email regarding how cadets may return to campus to retrieve their belongs from the residence halls and move out.
2. An email regarding the federal CARES Act funding for cadets.

3. An email regarding housing, dining and parking refunds for cadets. Included you'll find description of a family-friendly policy for those making Fall 2020 deposits.

We are positioned to begin a resumption of instruction once we are cleared by the Governor's office. We are now communicating the plans and protocols to faculty, staff and cadets. You'll see those communications in your email inboxes soon, so please check them daily. I appreciate the stresses and pains of what we must do as a society to get back on track - I too experience them - and I look forward to seeing many of you back at the academy as soon as we are approved to resume your education.

All the very best, TC



Thomas A. Cropper
President