Dear Members of the BGSB University Fraternity

You are aware that our country is locked in a battle against an extraordinarily serious COVID-19 pandemic which has affected the human race globally. The severe outbreak calls for extraordinary measures and hence the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country has declared 21-days complete country-wide lock down to contain and mitigate this lethal threat. Elaborate governmental advisories have been issued which need to be followed in letter and spirit, if we have to win this deadly 2019-nCoV Corona war. As the head of BGSBU family, my sincere advice to my entire BGSBU fraternity is to stay calm and face this situation with utmost alacrity. My worries revolve around the following serious concerns which have to be tackled jointly by all of us:

- 1. First and foremost is the safety and well-being of you, your family and your entire kith and kin. The detailed 'Dos and Don'ts are widely publicized which need to be followed in its entirety without any let-up. Since the transmission of this contagious virus is at the exponential rate which spreads like a fiercely raging wild fire, please remember that one little lapse on your part will endanger the life of millions. Let none of us be the guilty of this lethal trigger.
- 2. As the guardian of your academic career, I am deeply worried about any possibility of academic derailment. The control time is highly uncertain but your academic calendar is fixed and has very little time flexibility. At this crucial juncture, I urge all my teaching faculties to play a pivotal role. Please work from your home. In order to safe guard the academic interest of our students, we have decided to bring the class rooms at your doorsteps, on your fingertips through online mode. Hence, all the teachers are requested to please upload their lectures/tutorials and supplementary study material of the uncovered units of the course(s) assigned to them, on the university website to make them accessible to students. Please make these lectures highly informative which should also contain links for further supplementation of the information. Now that internet services have been restored, students can have online interactive sessions with teachers through Skype during the time schedule notified by the teachers. Limited WhatsApp groups, social media and electronic tools may be used to facilitate teaching-learning process and addressing students' queries. To ensure the success of this distance mode, the teachers and students have to be in sync and ensure that the lectures and study materials are being accessed and down-loaded on regular basis. As far as possible, I would be in touch with the students and teachers directly to assess the progress of this venture. Given the constraint of time, I consider this as the next best option to the conventional

class room teaching. Following the completion of course through this mode, the situation will be reviewed and all necessary measures shall be taken to save the precious academic year of the students.

3. I am equally concerned to provide all the required information to those fresh students who are seeking admission in the next academic session. The University has formed 'Help Desk' relating to each academic programme which contains the name and the contact number of the person associated with the specific programme (details available on the website). The aspirants are encouraged to contact the concerned person for any query/information. In addition, the entire 'Admission Prospectus-2020' with all the programme related details is uploaded on the university website which can be perused for any information.

BGSBU, in sync with the nation, has always risen to occasion to face and combat any challenging situation and has come out victorious. I sincerely appreciate the services being rendered by the University staff associated with the essential services including the Proctorial Department for providing security in campus. Even during these troubled times, I am very confident that with the concerted efforts and mutual hand-holding, we will, In shah Allah, weather this unprecedented crisis by displaying consummate resolve and determination as we did in the past.

My all good wishes to all of you, stay blessed forever.

(Javed Musarrat)

Vice Chancellor