

March 25, 2020

My dear students,

I am sure that you understand the gravity of the unexpected and unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 pandemic all over the World. The Federal and provincial governments have taken measures to cope with the situation and to safeguard well-being of the people of Pakistan. All Government departments are doing their best to cope with this calamity and so we are at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI). It is under the directions of the national authorities, viz. Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Ministry of Science and Technology that CUI is discharging its responsibility to work in the best interest of students. This would not have been possible without the help of our valued faculty, officers and all staff members.

Imparting quality education to students is our key objective. In the current situation, where physical mobility of students and faculty is not advised, online education is the best alternative. Under the directions of HEC, we have started online education, and most of our faculty members have already started delivering their lectures. Luckily, "CUOnline" and "hybrid mode of CUOnline" are available at CUI for this purpose. We realize that online education has its limitations and, in its present form, does not offer a complete substitute to the traditional modes of learning where lectures are delivered by the faculty in a classroom setting. In order to make-up, some faculty members have started using software to deliver lectures through creating virtual class room setups. Availability of computer, reliable access to Internet and bandwidth issues though still remain there particularly at the students' end.

With the help of HEC, our IT teams are working day and night to integrate different software in an effort to develop one comprehensive system so that all students get closer to an interactive learning environment. Please note that, this is an arrangement made to make best use of the time and utilize available resources while the University is closed. Once the situation, In Shaa Allah, returns

to normalcy, we will assess the efficacy of the courses delivery with the help of our august faculty. We will make sure that you are satisfied on counts of quality of the delivered course contents. Gaps and shortcomings will be identified for redressal before we move on to the conduct of examinations. Moreover, during the semester, policies and instructions of CUI and other concerned national authorities will be followed.

We hope that you appreciate the efforts being made by the faculty, officers and staff of COMSATS University Islamabad to save your precious time in this extraordinary situation. We advise you to stay at home, follow the directions of the government, remain connected to your studies and keep praying to Almighty Allah (SWT) for the earliest end of this difficult time.

May Almighty Allah (SWT) bless you all.

*Dr. Tahir Naeem*

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