



A Letter Condemning the University's Decision to Continue with In-Person Final Exams December 16, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

In an email sent at approximately 7:15 PM, the University of Maryland College Park administration announced that they would be enacting certain measures to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. These measures include restricting on-campus dining to takeout, mandating the usage of KN95 masks during all in-person exams, cancellation of in-person events without stringent methods of mask-wearing enforcement, and the cancellation of all winter commencement activities.

While we are disheartened by these decisions, we agree that they prioritize campus safety. However, the new restrictions do not include any significant changes to the proctoring of the remainder of final exams, with the exception of requiring all students and faculty to wear KN95 masks. We firmly believe that keeping all final exams in person is a poor decision on behalf of the University administration.

Within six hours, a petition to move the remainder of final exams to a virtual format gained over 2,900 signatures. There is currently a feeling of unrest and uncertainty among the student body. As student leaders, we are acutely aware of this and are calling on the University administration to make this change immediately. It is in the best interest of on-campus students, staff, and faculty that final exams are *not* in person.

We also fully support the resolution being presented at the Student Government Association's emergency general body meeting tonight. The legislation thoroughly explains the University's shortcomings in regard to this decision and requests that the remainder of the final exams be proctored virtually.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff should be of paramount importance to the University administration. We believe this is a necessary change for the well-being of our constituents and the rest of the campus community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott C.", written over a horizontal line.

RHA President & Executive Team