To the Campus Community,

Earlier this week, Interim Chancellor Newman provided updates to students on coronavirus-related academic and financial issues, including information about potential alternatives to an on-campus graduation ceremony during the traditional commencement season given the public health concerns we must now bear in mind. There are a variety of possibilities that can be considered, but one thing is clear: we need to do a better job of listening to the sentiments of the graduating class.

Accordingly, as we continue to plan for Commencement 2020, we are asking for input from our student body, especially graduating students. We will be inviting representatives from the undergraduate and graduate student governments to participate in the planning process. Please let us hear your thoughts through this form or an email to events@umb.edu. Ideally, we’d like to hear from you by Monday, April 6, but please contribute your thoughts as soon as you can.

The spirited feedback we’ve received thus far is a testament to your connection to, and caring for, the UMass Boston community. While avoiding an in-person gathering this May is a necessary public health decision, we understand and share your disappointment. At the same time, we know that working together, we will find a solution that acknowledges and celebrates your joyous achievement.

Cordially,
UMass Boston Commencement Committee