Dear Faculty & Scholars,

During these uncertain times, when we all are bombarded daily with information about the Coronavirus outbreak, the ISSO wishes to reinforce to you that UNC Charlotte is always proud to welcome international students, faculty, and researchers from around the world to our campus. The diversity of thought, experience, and talent that you all, as international scholars and faculty, bring to this university cannot be diminished by the existence of a virus which does not discriminate based on citizenship or borders.

At a time like this, tensions and worries may be high. Perhaps the virus is impacting you, your students and staff, junior researchers, your family members, and friends in your home country or within the United States. You may be concerned about your health, safety, and welfare. Being far from family and friend support networks might complicate your situation and feelings.

Here at the ISSO, where internationalization and global exchange are our mission and commitment, we especially want to say: “We are here for you.” Also, as faculty, our students look up to you for advice, guidance, and help navigating the university or its resources which are available to them.

Below are some suggestions on how you can help:

- Meet, call, or email anyone of concern to check on their well-being.
- If possible, ask if they have called home to check on their families.
- If you feel a student is experiencing severe stress and needs to see a counselor, please contact the Counseling and Psychological Services immediately to inform them of the situation.
- Contact the International Student and Scholar Office to provide updates on the student’s or scholar’s case, if warranted. Also, check in with us regarding your own visa, travel, and immigration questions or concerns.
- Contact the Dean of Students Office to report a student’s case if needed.
- Avoid speaking with the media without consultation from the University Communications Office.
- Review the ISSO’s announcements about overseas travel.
- Report incidents of bias related to the virus or profiling, which demean us all.

These are small steps, but in a crisis, the smallest kindnesses have an enormous impact in dispelling our greatest fears. In closing, please don’t hesitate to visit us in the ISSO and reach out for help if you need it.

We wish you and your families our very best and also a successful end of the semester!

Sincerely,

Tarek Elshayeb, Director of the ISSO

Denise Medeiros, Associate Director of the ISSO