Dear Colleagues,

First and foremost, we encourage you to take thoughtful, deliberate steps to support undergraduate students as we conclude the semester. This is an emotionally and physically exhausting year for everyone, and we hope you will have some opportunities to recharge during the end of the semester. We truly appreciate your efforts, which have gone to extraordinary lengths to support our students’ intellectual, emotional, and physical wellbeing.

In this message, we want to remind you of the tools at your disposal to offer a bit of relief to faculty, students, and staff. While election day is on November 3rd, the nature of the moment suggests that student engagement in the electoral process will continue long after the polls close on November 4th. For most of our undergraduates, this election is the first Presidential election they have ever voted in. This makes it a particularly challenging time, and many students may be feeling overwhelmed by the choice they face and the outcomes of the election. As we come to the end of the semester, we hope you will take time to remind your students of these resources and to take care of themselves. Many of our students feel pressure to achieve unprecedented success even in this period of uncertainty. We urge you to consider helping them keep things in perspective. You can point them to COVID-related wellness strategies on the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs or the Duke Cashier’s Office.

We hope this note finds you and your loved ones safe and well. With gratitude for all that you continue to do.

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