



Il Rettore

Pavia, March 14, 2020

Dear colleagues, dear students,

on a weekend like this, never experienced by any of us, I like to thank you for the affection you are showing at the University.

The students collaborated from the first day of emergency in a constructive way, immediately realizing that distance learning will require a supplement of commitment. They are following us in a silent and active way, with understandable apprehension for deadlines that jump one by one and, above all, the fear of seeing compromised a significant portion of the course of study.

To you students I confirm that the University will continue to do everything in its power to accompany you and be close to you in these difficult days and, for any recoveries that may become necessary, there will be additional occasions in presence, as soon as it will be possible.

The technical and administrative staff follows the instructions with great attention and organized themselves, in record time, to contribute to the University activities by working from home with quality and effective results. This moment of emergency stressed the importance of becoming more familiar with the culture and techniques of smart working. I am also appreciating the great generosity in wanting to oversee essential services and, more generally, in working also thinking about recovery.

To you - colleagues of the PTA - I confirm the attention of your university to above all guarantee job security and, together, the possibility of your fundamental professional contribution.

The professors are responding with a great sense of responsibility, showing that they understand the delicate role of educators, as well as of researchers and professors. The research activity has been sacrificed to get closer to the students and the needs of e-teaching. I know of colleagues and friends who are working late into the night, making the training material available for their teachings. Just as others colleagues explore the use of tools and techniques that have never been thought of, and perhaps wanted, addressed.

To all of you I assure I will continue to be supportive and close confident that this could also help as a mutual stimulus.

Unfortunately, immediately and reluctantly, this emergency has, by myself and by the Crisis Unit decision, excluded from the work spaces, PhD students, scholarship holders and post-doc fellows. This was necessary to ensure maximum caution towards those who are not permanent personnel of our University and to respect the general health needs to limit people displacement.

It is clear that without a direct relationship with the students in the classroom and without the presence of young people, in the laboratories and libraries, the university simply disappears and become simply a service, however useful and for us indispensable today.



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It seems to me that our university, and the university system in general, are giving an excellent example of severity, with attention to scientific recommendation which in part come directly from itself; of guidance, responsive to the needs of a Community and not favoring short-sighted and selfish points; of common sense, taking on preventive responsibilities when government directives can have understandable delays.

I take this opportunity to thank the health-care system as a whole and the Pavia IRCCS, starting from the Policlinico San Matteo Foundation, which is operating as a national reference in this emergency, helping to dispel a glare of recent times, namely that competence constitutes a useless tinsel.

We continue with great seriousness, following the indications of the civil and health Authorities without distinction, having in mind and hearth the people in the most uncomfortable condition.

Finally, I am pleased to relaunch what is spreading as an auspicious Leitmotiv and national unity: (doing so) everything will be fine!

Best wishes

Francesco Svelto

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the initials 'F.' followed by a stylized, cursive name.