



Fwd: EMU Action on Room & Board Credits and Update on Stimulus Funds for Direct Student Aid

From: **President's Office** <pres_office@emu.edu>
Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2020 at 2:19 PM
Subject: EMU Action on Room & Board Credits and Update on Stimulus Funds for Direct Student Aid
To: EMU Students

Fri, Apr 17, 2020 at 2:31 PM



Greetings EMU students,

Blessings to each of you as the spring semester draws to a close with extra full days devoted to finishing courses and completing other end-of-term engagements. Despite the upheaval and uncertainty from COVID, your ability to finish this term on-line is a remarkable achievement. I want to share with you an EMU action on room and board credits and some news regarding other student aid.

As signaled in early correspondence, Eastern Mennonite University will be issuing room & board credits to residential students who lived on campus and were required to leave campus as a result of COVID-19.

Our action today is based on credits that were calculated on the unused portion of room and board, net of room grants and other fixed cost obligations. Credits vary, depending on the housing and meal plan, and will be applied to student accounts by April 24.

We have negotiated in good faith with our service providers to mitigate as many fixed costs as possible, but there remain some contracted food service costs that EMU has incurred and were used in calculating the credits. Those fixed costs amounted to less than 20% of the amount of the overall credit. EMU is absorbing other fixed costs.

If a student had a balance outstanding on their account, the credit will go towards that balance. For returning students, the credit will automatically carry over to the next term. Graduating seniors or students not returning may request a refund of credit balance by contacting the Business Office.

For those students who received a waiver to remain on campus, there will be no credit or a reduced credit based on the recorded move-out date.

Additionally, for those students who participated in the Guatemala Cross-Cultural trip, we are still gathering all expenses and will provide separate communication to those students and families.

Please contact the Business Office businessoffice@emu.edu with questions on your account once the credits are posted.

The decision to close our residence halls was the correct move for the safety and health of our students, even as it has created a financial hardship for the University. We understand that each student and family is impacted differently by this pandemic.

At the suggestion of several families, we are providing additional options for those who may want to donate all or any part of their credit. We welcome gifts of any portion of this credit to students or to EMU as both have experienced significant financial challenges:

- * Emergency Student Compassion Fund: to provide direct tuition relief for current and prospective students.
- * The University Fund for Resilience: to address the significant impact COVID-19 will have on the University.

To begin processing a gift of your credit, please contact our development office at devoffice@emu.edu or 800-368-3383. You may also make an immediate financial contribution to our students or the University on EMU's [website](#).

Please be aware that there are other ways in which we are assisting our students in addition to room and board credits. For instance, through the CARES Act, EMU was recently notified of funding to use for direct student aid. These funds are designated for those most in need to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, and include eligible expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. More information will be coming soon on how these stimulus funds will be made available.

EMU continues to respond to the many challenges of the pandemic as swiftly and responsibly as we can. We thank you for your patience, grace, and goodwill. We are with you in spirit as you get to the finish line this semester! We so admire your can-do attitude and resiliency in this virtual learning environment. Stay strong, EMU students!

Warmly,
Susan Schultz Huxman, President
Tim Stutzman, Vice President Finance & Operations



