



14 March 2020

To our Fellow EU Students,

On Friday afternoon, the Vice-Chancellor sent an email to all Sydney University students, providing an update on the University's response to COVID-19. As part of that email, the Vice-Chancellor strongly recommended that student clubs and societies cancel or defer on-campus activities or gatherings for the time being. He further advised that the University anticipates it may not be possible to resume these events until spring, and that the situation will be reviewed at the start of Semester 2.

In light of that recommendation, the EU Executive has decided to suspend all in-person activities and gatherings, and run these online where possible. This is not a decision we make lightly, as we are aware of the great joys of in-person fellowship, and the time and energy many of you have invested into planning for in-person events. However, we recognise our responsibility to serve the University community. This means that how we gather should be guided by love and consideration for our neighbours, even if this comes at a cost. The following quote from a 'The Gospel Coalition' article addresses this aspect of how we should respond to the pandemic very well:

*"We might also seek to sacrificially serve our neighbours by prudently abiding by the advice of medical professionals to help slow the spread of the disease. Instead of just our own health we should prioritize the health of the wider community, especially the most vulnerable citizens, by exercising an abundance of caution without perpetuating fear, hysteria, or misinformation. This might mean costs for us—cancelling travel or planned events, or even self-quarantine if we think we've been exposed—but we should accept these costs with joy."*

In these times of crisis, which are a source of anxiety and great fear for many, it is also important for us to remember that our God is all-sovereign, all-knowing and all-loving. As we see in the Gospels, "even the wind and the sea obey [Jesus]" (Mark 4:41). We serve and worship the same Jesus today who "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). As Jesus has all knowledge and authority over all natural forces and all spiritual forces, this is true for COVID-19 too. Although times may be uncertain for us, Jesus in all his wisdom knows what will happen, and we know that God can do all things and no purpose of His can be thwarted (Job 42:2). Furthermore, as God works for the good of those who love him (Romans 8.28), we can trust that even in the midst of this difficult time He is still at work for our good.

Knowing all this, we can turn to our God in prayer. As Paul encourages the Philippians to stand firm in the faith and press on in living towards eternal life, he reminds them that Jesus is near, and that they should not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present [their] requests to God. For if they did this, the peace of God which transcends all understanding, would guard their hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4.4-7). These are words we particularly need to hear today.



As mentioned above, we are suspending all in-person activities and events, and running them online where possible. Accordingly, the following changes will take effect as of Monday 16 March:

**Public Meetings:** A virtual public meeting will take place at 1-2pm, Monday to Thursday. This will be live streamed onto the EU Facebook page.

**Small Groups:** Small groups will continue to run at their designated times. However, they will be run online, using Zoom.

**Equip:** Equip courses will be run online at their designated times, using Zoom.

**Evangelism Seasons (Faculty Activities):** We will no longer run a stall on Eastern Avenue. We ask that faculties allocated to a season of evangelism postpone the events they have planned. However, faculties are free (and encouraged) to run events online.

**Mark Drama:** We are postponing all scheduled Mark Dramas until further notice.

**euStreet:** We are postponing all activities of euStreet until further notice.

**E-Summits and AMP Meetings:** E-Summits and AMP Meetings will continue to run online, using Zoom.

**Come Home Dinner:** In-person Come Home Dinners will be postponed until further notice.

**Team Meetings (Faculty Committees, Specialist Teams, one-on-one meetings with staff):** These will continue, provided that they are run online.

**Other Faculty Gatherings:** All other in-person faculty gatherings will be postponed until further notice.

**Additionally:** While student to student meet-ups fall outside the perimeter of Clubs & Societies events, we encourage you all to take note of current social distancing health advice, and be wise in your exposure to other students. That said, we are told in Hebrews 10:24-25 not to give up meeting together, considering how we may encourage each other and spur one another on to love and good deeds. We would therefore love for you to continue sharing life together and praying for one another using online media, especially during this period when some are more prone to feelings of loneliness and isolation.

While our activities will be moved online, it will still be business as usual for the EU. We are still celebrating 90 years of proclaiming “Jesus is Lord” with the Year of Evangelism. In fact, we believe that this move presents a huge opportunity to spread the gospel through new widely-accessible online media (you can copy a link for Public Meetings and Small



Groups and have all your friends access it!!). Additionally, in Matthew 28:19-20, our Lord commands us to make disciples of all nations, but he also promises that he will always be with us until the end of the age. What a joy it is knowing that Jesus is with us as we evangelise in these new and creative ways! We encourage you to take this opportunity and be innovative with your evangelism, praying that God would continue to draw the lost to Him.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact with a member of the Exec. An easy way to contact us is to email [executive@sueu.org.au](mailto:executive@sueu.org.au).

Please join us in continuing to pray that God would heal those affected by the outbreak and bring it to an end soon. Please also pray that the certain hope of the gospel would shine bright in a world currently marked by fear and uncertainty.

In Christ,

The EU Executive

*Jacob Madden (President), Naomie Nguyen (Vice President), Alex Kiefer (Vice President), Paige Katay (Secretary), Sophie Anderson (Treasurer)*