RESOLUTION by the University of Barcelona rector to cease face-to-face teaching during the second semester of academic year 2019-2020

Background and legal grounds

The serious health crisis caused by COVID-19 has forced the Spanish Government to take various exceptional measures. These include declaration of a state of alarm by means of Royal Decree 463/2020, 14 March, subsequently extended by Royal Decree 476/2020, 27 March, and the corresponding regulations to implement this legislation, which have affected health, social and economic areas in the entire state.

The University of Barcelona initially suspended face-to-face teaching and then agreed to close its facilities and buildings. It has gradually taken various measures to ensure the maintenance of the public service as far as possible. This is particularly true for academic activity. From the outset, resources have been strengthened so that teaching and research staff can plan and undertake distance teaching and reinforce the monitoring of students’ activities through available online means.

Despite the measures taken at all levels, there is still considerable uncertainty about the evolution of the pandemic and the measures that should be implemented to contain it. Given this situation, and considering the high probability that face-to-face academic activity will not be reinitiated during the rest of the academic year, it has been agreed that on the entire Catalan university system and in accordance with the indications of the Ministry of Universities, face-to-face teaching will cease during the second semester of the academic year 2019-2020 and distance teaching will be maintained, without detriment to the measures that are adopted to ensure the assessment of all students.

Consequently, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by current legislation and particularly Article 73 of the University of Barcelona statutes,

I RESOLVE:

First. To cease face-to-face teaching on all University of Barcelona courses corresponding to the second semester of academic year 2019-2020, from 13 March and until the end of the academic year.
Second. To entrust to the Governing Council’s Academic Committee with approval of general instructions for teaching during the period remaining until the end of the academic year, and with the establishment of measures to guarantee the learning and assessment of all UB students.

These instructions will be approved at the online extraordinary meeting of the Governing Council on 22 April and will be published subsequently.

Third. To publish this resolution on the UB electronic office and on the Transparency Website.

Barcelona, 3 April 2020

Joan Elias i Garcia
Rector