Dear MTSU student,

As the 2020-2021 academic year approaches, the MTSU community is facing unprecedented challenges in regards to public health. All faculty, staff, and students share responsibility for making choices and decisions with the best interest of the university community in mind. As such, MTSU students and student organizations are required to abide by MTSU’s expectations regarding specific behaviors associated with management of the pandemic while on AND off of campus.

The specific expectations associated with COVID-19 management are outlined in “A Return to Campus Playbook for Students”. Students, who fail to comply with these expectations, either on- or off-campus, may be subject to disciplinary action.

Specifically, students, student organization officers, and student organization members should be reminded of the following provisions of the Student Conduct Policy:

1. As outlined in MTSU Policy 540: Student Conduct, students or organizations who engage in behaviors in violation of expectations or policies, including those related to social distancing, face mask requirements, and the management of COVID-19, may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for possible disciplinary action.

2. Disciplinary action may be taken against a student or student organization for violations of the expectations which occur on University owned, leased, or otherwise controlled property and/or at any off-campus location if the alleged conduct impairs, interferes with, or obstructs any University activity or the mission, processes, and functions of the University.

3. MTSU may also take disciplinary action for any off-campus behavior that affects a substantial University interest, specifically any situation where a student’s conduct may present a danger or threat to the health or safety of others. This includes engaging in individual or group activities or events that do not meet social distancing requirements and that create a substantial risk of COVID-19 transmission to students, faculty, or other members of the University community.

Our common goal is to be able to return to normal pre-COVID university life as soon as possible, and we simply cannot do that without a shared commitment to public health. While we hope that students will choose not to engage in risky behaviors on- or off-campus, we are prepared to address inappropriate behavior through the discipline process with those who do. It is our hope that we can navigate this challenge together to keep everyone in our University community safe and healthy.

I encourage you to ask questions and seek clarification for any of the student rules you do not understand. Thank you in advance for doing your part!

Laura Sosh-Lightsy, Assistant Dean, Office of Student Conduct