Dear Chinese Students and Scholars,

I am writing to reach out to you specifically to communicate our concern for your well-being during this difficult time with the international coronavirus outbreak. The staff in International Services, part of the Center for Global Engagement, understands that you may be uniquely affected by the news of the coronavirus, as you may have family, friends, and colleagues who are directly or indirectly impacted by the virus and the response.

We stand ready to assist you with any matter related to the coronavirus and its impacts on you personally, academically or professionally. I wish to draw your attention to some resources that are available to you if you have questions, concerns, or need up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus response.

First, I urge all of you to take care of your health and well-being. We understand that this matter may cause emotional distress to you. The Student Counseling Center is available to assist enrolled UMB students. Faculty, postdoctoral fellows and staff may seek assistance from the Employee Assistance Program.

We are also asking you to consider the well-being of the UMB community. UMB is requiring all individuals who arrived from China on or after January 15th, 2020 to wait 14 days after their arrival before returning to the UMB campus, and to contact the University of Maryland Immediate Care at (667) 214-1899 to speak with a clinician. If you are in this group and are self-quarantining, please do let us know so we can help you. You are not alone in this situation. OIS staff can assist you with any accommodations you may need to continue your work or studies remotely.

Second, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) has launched a coronavirus webpage with excellent information about the virus, travel information, external websites to consult, and links to communications from UMB leadership. I encourage you to visit the website regularly, as the University will continue to update it as this fluid situation evolves.

Finally, we ask you to communicate with us regarding any questions that you may have. It is very important that we hear from you regarding your questions so that we can understand any outstanding issues that require a response from the university. You may email us directly at ois-info@umaryland.edu, call us at (410) 706-7488 or visit us during our walk-in advising hours if you are permitted to come to campus.

The Center for Global Engagement is here to support our global community, both here in Baltimore and around the world. We truly value your presence, as we believe that only through fostering global collaboration and dialogue can we achieve our university mission of improving the human condition and serving the public good.

Warm regards,

Amy Ramirez