Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2017:

As the fall semester draws to a close and New England ushers in the winter season, it is hard to believe that the members of the Class of 2017 will be walking across Denison Terrace to receive their diplomas in just about six months. If that time goes as quickly as this semester has, commencement will be here in a snap. Fall semester classes end on December 9, with reading period and final exams from December 10-17. Housing will close at noon on Sunday, December 18 and open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 24. Seniors wishing to stay in their woodframe houses at any point during winter break must register with Residential Life by December 17.

I have spent much of this semester encouraging seniors to review their academic progress to ensure that they will meet all of the requirements for graduation before May 28, 2017. To participate in the commencement ceremony on that day, students must meet all five of Wesleyan’s graduation requirements: 32.00 credits without oversubscription, a minimum of 16.00 specifically Wes credits (which transfers must watch out for), completion of a major, semesters in residence (six semesters for students entering as first-years, but four or five if a junior or sophomore transfer), and a G.P.A. of at least 74.00. There is still time to make changes to course schedules for credit adjustments and major course requirements during the drop/add period at the start of the spring semester. Please speak with your student about progress in relation to any of these requirements, and if there is any uncertainty, urge your student to contact me as soon as possible.

I also have worked with many seniors regarding life post-Wes. While some students already have jobs lined up, others are in the midst of submitting applications for graduate or professional school, and still others—most—are still undecided or deciding about next steps. Their many interests could take them in a multitude of directions. Should this be the case with your student, share your own story and your confidence that a path will be found. Ask what your student would like to experience in the first year after graduation instead of for the rest of life. Let your student know that I would be happy to meet and talk about how to face the challenge and excitement of life post-Wes, and that there is still time to work with a staff member in the Gordon Career Center to make post-graduation plans, do resumes, and get professors’ recommendations.

In the midst of all this planning, there are many students who want to talk about and understand the results of the election, regardless of their political affinities. There have been several structured opportunities for students to gather and process the outcome, including many panel discussions by Wesleyan faculty members. Of course, I am here to support students in this effort and to help them successfully complete the fall semester—their last one as undergraduates—as they wrap up
course assignments and continue work on capstone experiences. Fall athletes finished their season and the winter season has begun for others. As seniors engage in the issues, academics, and activities on campus, please encourage your student to take advantage of the numerous opportunities and resources available and to stop in to say hi or share questions or concerns.

I am thankful that I have still have one more semester to work with the Class of 2017 and will be writing to you again in the spring. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call or write, if you have any questions or concerns.

With best wishes,

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