I was planning to take MAT 203 (Vector Calculus) in Fall 2020, but it has been cancelled. What is the best alternative available this fall? And will MAT 204 be offered in the spring?

Yes, unfortunately we had to cancel MAT 203 and MAT 214 (Intro to Number Theory) for this fall so that we could decrease precept sizes for online learning. We are optimistic that we can offer MAT 204 as usual this spring.

There are a couple of different options you might choose, depending on your interests and your background.

The most obvious choice is MAT 201 which covers the same topics as MAT 203, with more emphasis on problem-solving and less emphasis on theory/proofs. This is a challenging course and it gives a very solid preparation for physics and engineering. Based on our review of multivariable calculus courses students have taken while in high school, we are confident that you will learn a lot in 201 even if you have already seen this mathematics in a previous course.

It is important in physics and most engineering programs to get a good knowledge of multivariable calculus early in your course of study, so if you are heading in those directions and you have no prior background, you should take 201 (provided you have the prerequisite knowledge).

If you have some background in multivariable calculus and a strong interest in math or in theory-building in physics, engineering (and many other STEM fields) then you might consider 215. The 215-217-300 sequence gives a proof-based treatment of single-variable calculus (215), a proof-based treatment of linear algebra (217) and a proof-based treatment of multivariable calculus (300).

If you are not sure about proofs, but it sounds interesting, you can try out 215. You will know very quickly if this style of mathematics seems interesting, and it will be very easy to switch to 201 during drop/add if you decide this is not for you.

If you have prior background in proof-based mathematics at the university level, then you might consider the 216-218 sequence, which covers the 215-217-300 material in two whirlwind semesters. For most students, the 215-217-300 sequence is a better choice which gives you a chance to digest the material better and may well provide a better foundation for future work than 216-218 does.