



**Office of the Provost**

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Colleagues,

Since resuming the semester last Monday, indications are that you have all managed to pull off an unplanned and unprecedented transition to online and alternative methods instruction and distance delivery of student services. We are so grateful and truly admire what each of you is doing to make this possible. There isn't evidence of increased course drops for now and we continue to closely monitor enrollment effects. Every effort you can make to connect with students that appear not to be engaging in classes is critical so please do what you can.

Last week, the Faculty Senate approved a resolution to extend the tenure clock for up to a year for colleagues who wish to claim their research was negatively affected by the pandemic. There was significant discussion about suspending course evaluations for the semester, but no action was taken. Policy at both System and campus levels create sufficient leeway for practices to be temporarily amended at department or college levels should that be desirable. This week, we'll decide whether to extend online and alternative delivery of classes into the summer. Tomorrow, the University Committee will consider whether to broaden use of a Credit/No Credit grading option, a more accommodative approach being adopted at many universities in the UW System and nationwide.

No one knows how long the pandemic will last nor the potential enrollment and fiscal effects that may ensue so, across the UW, campuses have been asked to develop plans for budget cuts should they become necessary. Many of you have been through this before. Hopefully, it won't be necessary.

Adjustments are being made or considered to continue to recruit and enroll students. We may extend the deadline for admission into the Parkside Promise Plus program and we are thinking about raising the debt amounts that cause financial holds that keep students from registering. Testing administered by UW-Madison that is used to determine appropriate English and Math placements has been disrupted and alternative measures, some we already have in place, are being planned. An initiative in partnership with a firm named "ReUp" will launch soon and encourage students who did not complete their degrees to re-enroll.

As all of us continue to meet virtually with you and with our students, we continue to ask how things are going. Students seem to be adjusting. You do too. The social media posts that describe the creativity and problem-solving instructors have brought to their newly-formatted courses, and those images of home-office set-ups, are welcome data that help us stay connected while we are physically separated from one another.

Have a good second week back and please feel free to let me know how you are doing, either to share a concern or just to say "fine". The extra data these days is most helpful.

- Rob

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