

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 (3:37 pm) – COVID-19 Updates and Information Gathering

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations on wrapping up the Spring 2020 semester! I know this was a semester in which faculty and staff across campus were challenged to overcome numerous issues and innovate in order to respond to COVID-19 and meet the needs of K-State students. We rose to the challenge and finished out the semester strong.

Now that the Spring 2020 semester is behind us, I am writing to gather some information so we can make improvements in our university processes moving forward, and to provide some updates regarding COVID-19 planning.

**FACULTY TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT NEEDS:** As we move forward, we would like to gather information to learn about what gaps may exist in resources and access for faculty and staff to improve our institutional processes. If you have continuing internet access issues or equipment needs that have not yet been addressed, please complete this [brief survey](#) to provide this information.

**TEACHING & LEARNING CENTER SURVEY:** The Teaching and Learning Center is conducting a study to examine instructors' perceptions of their teaching, including any barriers experienced. The data collected will be used to better understand the domains in which instructors feel supported and less supported in their teaching, and will inform future professional development offerings to optimize teaching at K-State. To participate in this study, please click [HERE](#).

**FALL 2020:** Fall 2020 instructional plans are being discussed through the [Academic Instruction Working Group](#), which consists largely of faculty members and department heads. Provost Taber charged this group to propose an academic instruction model for Fall 2020, which will help to provide a structure for the departments to utilize in their course planning. These recommendations will be made to Provost Taber in early June.

Additional plans are being developed and reviewed relating to housing and dining, operations, research, the budget, health and wellness, and events. Information regarding decisions in these areas and others will continue to be communicated to the K-State community as information is available.

**SUMMER COURSES & FINANCIAL AID:** Summer 2020 courses are being offered online and can be helpful to students to [#FinishIn4](#). Financial aid is available to students who wish to take courses through K-State this summer and some distance course fees have been lowered to ease the financial burden. Additionally, students can apply for [emergency financial aid grants](#)

[through the CARES Act](#) to help cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

Finally, the 2020 – 2021 Faculty Senate term started on May 12<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to become familiar with the [senators who are serving this academic year](#) and continue to reach out to your shared governance representatives. Your ideas and input are important as we move forward.

I appreciate the work each of you are doing to remain #kstatestrong. Thank you and I look forward to working with you in this coming year.

Mindy

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