



Faculty Office
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Faculty Line #233
March 9, 2020

Colleagues,

Welcome back; I hope you each had some relaxing time over the spring break and that you are eager to finish out this Academic Year in the strongest way possible.

I am writing to you, with the support of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, to provide a brief update related to the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019, COVID-19.

As Interim Provost Leaman shared with the campus community in his two recent communications, University leaders are actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation to prepare for possible impact on our campus community. As Faculty President, I have been participating in the working group discussions regarding our readiness and response, and Faculty Vice President Brian Boyd and I will continue to do so.

Today, I am writing to ask that all faculty be as generous as possible about considering excused absences from students who express concerns about their risk of COVID-19. I respectfully request that, to the extent that it is pedagogically justifiable, faculty members exercise as much flexibility as they are able. I appreciate that this decision-making process will be unique to each faculty member. Please keep in mind, though, that the evolving situation may limit the ability of some individuals to be seen by a medical professional and therefore being able to provide documentation to justify their absence.

This suggested caution is extended to all within our University community; if you are feeling ill, please stay home. If you are experiencing any concerning symptoms, limit interaction with others until you are able to consult with your healthcare provider.

Please refer to the university website with information about COVID-19 (wright.edu/coronavirus), for an FAQ that addresses guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding risk of exposure and response. Please also refer all medical questions to health care professionals, reminding students of resources available to them via Wright State Student Health Services. Lake Campus students, faculty, and staff can contact Health & Wellness Services at beth.wells@wright.edu. All may also reach out to their family physician, local health department, or pharmacy for more information. As we continue to learn about this virus, proper hand washing and refraining from touching the face, as well as social distancing (including avoiding handshakes) are important steps we can take to help keep everyone as healthy as possible.

Your faculty leadership is also working closely with The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), discussing the possibility that we may temporarily move many of our instructional activities to a remote delivery mode. CTL will provide resource materials and instructions to prepare faculty to temporarily teach courses remotely, should this be deemed necessary. These materials will be available by the end of this week on CTL's website (<http://wright.edu/ctl>) under "Resources". If you are new to Pilot, please consider taking some time now to

familiarize yourself with logging in and navigating through the learning management system. Tutorials are available at <http://blogs.wright.edu/learn/pilot/>. For all others who use Pilot on a regular basis, we suggest that you prepare by ensuring your materials are accessible, all links are functional, and your content is in order. If faculty have any questions, the CTL staff are available to help by phone (937-775-2885), email (ctl@wright.edu) or in person (023 Library).

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Once again, for further updates, please see **wright.edu/coronavirus**. I ask that you *please read this resource carefully*, and return to it frequently, to stay as up to date as possible. This is especially important because many faculty are likely to be viewed by students as reliable resources. The University site is being regularly updated and serves as our common point of reference for university-wide information related to this evolving situation. Finally, please feel welcome to email me or your representative on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee¹ with questions you, your students, or colleagues may have, so that we can share them with the University Working Group and then provide valid answers as soon as possible. Take care, stay healthy, and keep in touch.

Most sincerely,

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¹ <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate/about/2019-20-officers-and-members>