

Subject: Monday Update - March 30, 2020

Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 at 9:06:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Rai, Sanjay K

To: Rockville Faculty{FT&PT}, Germantown Faculty{FT&PT}, Takoma Park Faculty{FT&PT}, Academic Affairs Staff and Administrators

Colleagues,

We are beginning the second week of remote teaching today. Throughout the transition and implementation, you have shown resolve, commitment and amazing ability to overcome challenges. Your innovative efforts are gratifying to me and to our students.

Introducing the Spring 2020 Dashboard

Beginning today, you can visit the recently developed Spring 2020 [Dashboard](#) which will allow you to see the progress you've been making in outreach to our students, use of software tools like Blackboard and Zoom, and tools and resources available for teaching and learning – all in one place.

Important Updates

Decisions have been and are being made in response to the unprecedented situation. We have emphasized the necessity for flexibility as we implement [continuity of instruction plans](#).

- [May 2 is the last day of instruction](#) for the Spring 2020 semester. Knowing that this extraordinary situation may require students to complete alternative assessments and that these may take faculty longer to grade, we decided to extend the final exam period to the last two instructional weeks of the spring semester to provide flexibility for students to complete their work and faculty to determine the appropriate final grade. Faculty teaching late start classes will be able to use these two weeks as they deem appropriate.
- Information on *Outside the Box Assessment Techniques for Higher Level Thinking Skills* can be found [here](#).
- [Summer Session Dates](#)
 - Summer Session I will run from June 8 – July 10. It will be online-only.
 - Summer Session II will run from July 11 – August 21. Currently, this session will include online and in-person courses.

In closing-

You are demonstrating in so many ways that a small molecule – a virion - is not going to stop us from our mission of teaching and learning. I know that some of you are dealing with new challenges. You are in unexpected shared work spaces – your homes; you have concerns about family members who are out of reach. Please reach out, let us know how we can support you – to take care of our students – to take care of each other.

These are unprecedented times. We live in a connected world that presents more opportunities for the spread of disease. However, that very connectivity is also presenting the opportunity to beat a disease. I am encouraged by what I read and hear about efforts around the world to flatten the curve and ultimately to find a vaccine and cure.

We have and will continue to respond in the best way possible given the information at hand. We will make mistakes along the way. We accept that and we will learn from our mistakes, as we remain committed to our mission and start this week with the same dedication and resolve.

With great appreciation,

Sanjay