

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday afternoon, Faculty Senate held its monthly meeting via zoom. Over 90 senators and visitors attended the meeting remotely, so know that shared governance is alive and well at K-State. Provost Taber attended the first part of our meeting to provide an [up-to-date report on COVID-19](#) and to respond to questions and concerns from senators, so I thought you could use some updates.

**BUILDING ACCESS:** While we are delighted that our students have the opportunity to collect their materials over the next eight work days, some faculty and staff noticed locked campus buildings yesterday. This made it difficult to obtain the materials needed to continue teaching; Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity and Discovery (RSCAD); and otherwise serving students and each other.

Yesterday, Provost Taber assured Faculty Senate that we would have more time to collect our things; this morning, buildings were unlocked. So please make every effort to collect what you need by the end of this week in order to accomplish your work moving forward. The sooner you retrieve your materials the better. If this includes any technology or other University property, please sign things out with your department heads and IT system administrators.

**RSCAD:** The University needs to identify what research will continue on campus in order to consolidate building use during the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining social distance recommendations. As such, deans and department heads were asked to submit a list of mission critical research and other folks who need to be on campus as we move forward. Vice President for Research (VPR) Peter Dorhout will review these plans and designate mission critical research.

The VPR office has [guidance and resources](#) for how to continue RSCAD during this crisis. Like the rest of the resources on the [COVID-19 page](#), information changes daily. If you see areas that need to be added, please reach out to Cheryl Doerr at [cdoerr@k-state.edu](mailto:cdoerr@k-state.edu). RSCAD is crucial to our Land Grant University mission and our responsibility to the world. What we create via RSCAD helps to solve the problems that we face during this pandemic. Your productivity in these areas is crucial to our global success, so we must keep researching.

**ASSESSMENT & MORE TRAINING:** In addition to our continued RSCAD enterprises, we continue to prepare for remote instruction. Many of you have asked about how exams will be proctored moving forward. Proctoring services are not a viable resource given the teaching realities of this pandemic. That is why in addition to recommending asynchronous teaching, the University strongly encourages developing alternative assessments beyond traditional “exams” that require proctors. There is a “best practices” section in the “Assessing Learning in Remote Environments” on the [Keep Teaching FAQ page](#). Alternative assessment is also discussed in the “Considerations for Revising your Syllabus and Assignments” [workshop session](#). As each of my notes has indicated, this is difficult for instructors and students. Your flexibility, ingenuity, and resourcefulness are greatly appreciated.

The [Keep Teaching website](#) continues to grow. So far, hundreds of us have attended [Remote Teaching Training](#). These trainings are recorded and posted for you all to use. Please let your colleagues know about these resources. They are fantastic. If you don't see what you need on the training list, the Teaching and Learning Center and Global Campus want to know. You can communicate through me or [email Katie Linder](#), executive director for program development at Global Campus.

STAY CONNECTED: As we shift to our new work reality, it is crucial that we continue to care for each other. Today Governor Kelly announced an [executive order to temporarily prohibit evictions and foreclosures](#). Here at K-State, the [COVID-19 Employee Link](#) has resources for supervisors and employees alike, including mental health help like the [Employee Assistance Program](#). You are not alone on this journey. Things have changed so quickly at work and at home. Nothing is perfect or ideal about the serious situation we are in. But we are here together.

As always, if I can be of assistance in any way, please reach out at [tgonzale@ksu.edu](mailto:tgonzale@ksu.edu). It is my sincere pleasure to serve and represent you, the stellar faculty and staff of Kansas State University.

In solidarity,  
Tanya