



Message From the Dean

Dean's Update for Faculty and Staff March 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

We are now entering the second week of remote teaching and our first full week of building security and restricting of access to essential needs. I really appreciate your cooperation as we have transitioned to almost everyone working remotely across all our campus locations. The news from across our programs is though students are not happy about the situation, they are adjusting and working hard amid many distractions. I appreciate that you are giving them time to share their feelings and concerns. Your flexibility and strong messages of support are working!

At UP, Kori and Steve are the two constant team members in our Dean's suite. Steve has asked that I also share his cell phone number should for some reason not be able to reach Kori or have questions for him or need building access. Steve can be reached by cell at 814-360-7737. Thank you, Steve and Kori, for all you are doing.

New items:

1. We continue to work through issues as we get them. Each campus is working through similar issues related to building access, mail and hard copy communications, and new ways to get work and tasks completed. At UP, mail will now only arrive one day per week. It is unclear what day, but as we learn more, we will keep you posted. If you are waiting for something, let Kori know and she will keep an eye out for it. Kori and Steve are happy to help if you would like mail opened, scanned, and sent to you electronically. Just contact them. Please continue to notify Kori when you are in the building. Again, I am monitoring but not mandating no visits to the building, but please visit the building only for those essential needs. If you have any concerns, feel free to reach out to me.
2. Spring faculty meeting: We have cancelled the spring face-to-face faculty meeting. We will begin to work through how we are going to complete the business of the meeting in an online/remote platform. For now, I would ask that you continue to hold that day until we have a plan as to how best to proceed.
3. The Provost changed his set meeting for University Leadership from today until tomorrow, so no news from his office since his message on the weekend to all faculty. I believe, he is preparing for the Town Halls tomorrow. If there is anything tomorrow night that is critical, I will let you know on Wednesday. I will send an update Wednesday, even if just to let you know, there is nothing new to report. Please continue to watch for

my messages and those of the Associate Deans related to program and research specific issues.

4. The Administrative group has completed a contingency plan should anyone not be able to continue as a result of illness or family need. We will share that with you later this week, but we all agree that Rule #1 is to stay well!
5. And finally, just an FYI that will make you proud to be associated with Penn State. Penn State is engaging in a response to COVID-19 that ranges from manufacturing to clinical trials for COVID-19 including a placebo controlled clinical trial of one of the antiviral agents for patients admitted to Hershey Medical Center. The response across the university to put our resources to solving problems associated with the COVID-19 virus is really amazing. You might look at <https://sites.psu.edu/masc> to see how PSU is exploring ways to assist in manufacturing PPE and other items needed to help.

We continue to be in this together. There is so much to be proud of here at Penn State Nursing. We are leading the way.

Be well,
Laurie