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[faculty] Urgent. Update to be sent to all graduate students

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Thu, Mar 19, 2020 at 3:55 PM

To: All-Faculty <all-faculty@nmt.edu>

Dear All:

I will, of course, answer all individual appeals and inquiries. But some inquiries are sufficiently general that they should be answered for all. Here's a few that have come my way so far:

1) What (the heck) does "essential" mean?

In this context "essential" means that the activity is necessary for the university to continue to function during the current public health crisis, and there are no other options than conduction of the on-site research or teaching function.

2) What is a "robust argument" that is not simply of the flavor "my research is important"?

"Robust argument" means more than simply asserting that "my research is important". Important questions that may need to be answered, depending on the nature of the appeal are: (i) have no-cost extensions been explored? Given the current national crisis, I would be surprised if any funding agency would not grant a no-cost extension. (ii) can the student in question work at a distance on data analysis? craft presentation material? write papers or other material in support of the project? etc. (iii) have all other options been explored? For example if the student does not have a laptop to support TA duties from a distance, can NMT (ACT or ITC) provide that? (iv) Etc.

Thanks ---- D

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