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## Daily Update

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Thu, Mar 19, 2020 at 8:07 PM

To: All-Faculty <all-faculty@nmt.edu>, Iver Davidson <iver.Davidson@nmt.edu>, Joe Franklin <Joe.Franklin@nmt.edu>, Leslie Rosenthal <leslie.rosenthal@nmt.edu>, Dave Lepre <dave.lepre@nmt.edu>, Lyndsey Lewis <lyndsey.lewis@nmt.edu>, Shari Montazeri <Shari.Montazeri@nmt.edu>, Peter Mozley <Peter.Mozley@nmt.edu>, James Scott <james.scott@nmt.edu>, "Cox, David" <david.cox@nmt.edu>, Anthony Ortiz <anthony.ortiz@nmt.edu>, Kenneth Aerts <kenneth.aerts@nmt.edu>

Dear All:

Here are the Academic Affairs updates for today, as well as the emerging issues that we intend to address tomorrow:

- 1) The decision was made today that graduate students are to continue to be supported, but to work off-site as TAs or RAs. We have created a process by which faculty and/or staff supporting students can petition for an exception to this rule. Please check earlier e-mails from myself and Dean El Osery for details. Also note that this applies to all hourly student workers, grad or undergrad. We want to ensure that all students who are depending on NMT income are still supported with off-site work to the maximum extent practicable. Regarding student housing and returning students, there was an e-mail from Mitch Tappen earlier today (5:59 pm) concerning those issues.
- 2) We are fully committed to delivering all classes, including labs, thesis/dissertation defenses, senior design/project, seminars, etc. via distance education. Some issues immediately arise:
  - a) How can we deliver labs via distance education and without on-site TAs? Some solutions different departments are working on include (i) sending students "kits" that enable them to complete most of the remaining labs, (ii) faculty generating data for students to analyze and write reports, (iii) calling the semester "done" for the lab, or (iv) something else borrowed from the extensive literature on the web about how other schools are coping. It is also important to say that departments have wide discretionary power about how to tackle this problem.
  - b) Regarding senior projects and senior design, unfortunately we cannot allow students back on campus to complete their projects. I know that it is difficult, but you are among the most creative people on earth. Please find alternatives to meet this challenge.
  - c) Regarding the training for faculty that is needed to go fully online in a little more than two weeks, we have an on-line leadership team meeting daily to address the challenges. They are the leadership of ITC, ACT and AFRL's outreach programs. In order to pull together training modules and content, they could use the support of faculty who are very comfortable with ZOOM, Panapto and Canvas and are willing to help them pull together the training materials. Please contact Iver if you are willing to help in this regard.
  - d) Prior to classes resuming, regarding the on-line systems being put in place, we must do a couple of "shakedown" runs to test the systems, find the flaws and fix them. Any faculty willing to help us test and challenge the system would be most welcome. Please contact Iver if you are willing to do this.
- 3) Tomorrow the Executive Covid-19 Committee (which meets daily) will take up some of the many questions that you have posed, including:
  - a) How will we manage proctoring exams, especially for larger classes?
  - b) Are we going to extend the semester to compensate for the "lost" two weeks?
  - c) Can faculty assign readings, HW and the like during the third week of Spring Break to partially compensate for that lost week of lectures?

Thanks ---- D

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