March 25, 2020

Dear College Faculty, Staff, and Students,

The College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences is an interdependent community of faculty, staff, and students interacting with one another daily in a myriad of ways. We are now asked to do what is in our power to sustain our community remotely. It won’t be as rich or as multifaceted as our in-person community, but it is what we’re afforded during a period when we have to check our need for society in the interest of safety. So long as we continue to work with one another, show each other consideration, and reach out to one another when we need assistance, we can keep our scholarly community running. No doubt, unforeseen problems will emerge, and our remote micro-society will be somewhat attenuated. Unfortunately, it can’t be otherwise.

I’d like here to extend my gratitude to everyone.

First, let me thank our students for hanging tough as we make the abrupt transition to fully remote learning. Remember that your faculty member is always and will remain your primary source of information for your courses. If you have any difficulty communicating with your instructor, please let me know. As the semester restarts after spring break, do what you can to organize your courses so that you don’t fall behind. As always, be alert to the temptations and risks of procrastination. And please show everyone involved some patience. Even if you’re comfortable with courses delivered on a remote platform, some of your fellow classmates may not have much experience with it, and some faculty members are teaching on a remote platform for the first time in their careers. Please also know that the campus’s student support infrastructure remains in place. If you’re having trouble outside of class and wonder whether we can help with that problem, let us know. We’ll put you in touch with the relevant office and/or person.

Second, allow me to thank our staff for your remarkable ingenuity and professionalism during this uniquely disruptive episode. Without your willingness and capacity to work from home, your departments and programs would collapse. Remember that we are and will continue to be your advocates and trouble-shooters. We don’t want to lose momentum in our efforts to ensure that your job classification and pay rate are accurate and fair for the work that you actually do. And we also want you to be confident that we’ve got you covered if you confront an issue you don’t know how to solve.
Third, I want to thank our faculty, chairs, and directors in particular for your efforts to transition to remote delivery formats and in general for your care for our students’ educational needs and aspirations. Your extraordinary generosity and dedication are realized daily in the hours you devote to helping students and colleagues get ready to provide students what they’re here to receive – learning from experts – for the rest of the semester. We in the Dean’s Office will continue our service to you in whatever way we can.

Please know that if I can be of any help to you solving a problem when it pops up, all you have to do is email me at rwelshon@uccs.edu. The chairs have heard me say more than once that being interim dean of the College has been a humbling experience, that is, an experience that induces humility in the face of others’ graciousness and dignity. Your collective efforts to make this semester work have been and will continue to be something I hope we can all remember as a moment when the worst of circumstances brought out the best in us.

Sincerely,

Rex Welshon, Interim Dean
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
University of Colorado Colorado Springs