

## **MSU Faculty:**

As you are aware, the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold nationally, within our state, and locally. We all want to see a return to more normal conditions on campus for the beginning of the fall 2020 term, but we remain in uncertain times. All of us were asked to quickly adjust in the middle of this semester to a fully online delivery model for the remainder of this semester. I realize how difficult this was for those of you who were not already teaching your courses online and for those of you who had no prior experience teaching in an online environment. But overall, you have done a remarkable job of pivoting so quickly.

As we continue planning for the fall term, there are some steps we can take now (Phase I) and other steps for which we need further deliberation (Phase II).

### **Phase I**

While our goal for Morehead State is to return to a normal, residential, traditional delivery environment for the fall 2020 term, given the lingering uncertainty regarding the health crisis, it would be prudent planning for each faculty member to begin planning now for the potential for your courses to be offered online. We have seen some universities in more metropolitan areas of our country already make the decision to move fully online for the fall term. Although their environment may be much different than ours, it points, nonetheless to the potential for a decision we may be facing.

So, as you begin preparing your courses for the fall term, I would like you to consider formulating your own contingency plan for your courses being delivered fully online should a lingering health crisis necessitate such a continuation. As you know, we had little time to prepare how to offer the best online experience for our students given the nature of how we were forced to go online this semester, so perhaps with more time to plan, we can develop a more holistic approach to foster online learning.

### **Phase II**

Your department chairs/associate deans will be contacting you for your comments on alternative fall 2020 delivery strategies in your programs. The chairs/associate deans will share those comments with their deans for discussion at an upcoming Deans' Council meeting. Please take the time to participate in this process. And should you anticipate the need for additional instructional resources in order to teach online, please share those with your department chair/associate dean. It is important we hear from the program faculty about your ideas on contingency planning as we continue to develop a more comprehensive strategy.

In addition, the Deans' Council is meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on April 29 to discuss fall contingency planning which may include a planned and deliberate mix of online, hybrid, and traditional delivery methods. Please feel free to contact the faculty senator(s) from your department as well, with your ideas.

Our Office of Distance Education and Instructional Design continues to offer one-on-one help for faculty teaching online and will be holding additional training sessions during the summer. Please watch for a future email from this office with dates, times, and details for this training.

Thanks to each of you for your hard work, your demonstrated flexibility, and your commitment to our students. And please watch for future communications on fall course delivery plans.

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