

Sent: 03/12/2020 2:06 PM
To: chemfac@lists.pitt.edu chemfac@list.pitt.edu
Subject: Fwd: UPDATES FOR DEPT CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS REGARDING PITT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Executive Summary: Please see below some new directions from Dean Blee. Briefly we should cancel our seminar series, research operations can continue albeit in the new reality of reduced staff support, CTL will schedule trainings for remote learning next week, keep the same class times if you are using synchronous delivery.

In no order of importance, some updates:

- Our research operations will continue as usual at this point. If faculty have questions about making changes to staffing in a research lab or center, please contact us.
- The CTL is putting together remote-access trainings for instructors next week; this will be advertised on their website.
- Undergraduates not living on campus should not be encouraged to come onto the campus, although the core facilities remain open to serve them. A number of faculty are seeking to accommodate student learning by allowing them to use departmental facilities to complete projects. As the Chair/Director, you should make the call on whether to permit this, but realize that (1) the overall goal is to move as many undergraduates off campus as possible; (2) your department/program will likely be operating with a very reduced on-campus staff which may not be able to supervise or provide access for students; (3) our instructional program for the remainder of this term should be delivered remotely, **even when that requires significant modification to courses.**
- We do not yet have clarity on the accrediting body(ies) requirements for how to handle the reduced number of weeks in the spring term.
- Courses delivered synchronously on-line need to be delivered in the same time slot as the in-person class was meeting. Otherwise we risk creating significant conflicts and additional confusion for students.
- The University is prohibiting non-essential travel. We strongly suggest that you do not invite any students or faculty from outside Pitt to campus at this time.
- You may continue to employ undergraduates who live on campus or in the area. If tasks can be done remotely, students should work remotely. Students on federal work/study who have left the campus will have the remainder of their guaranteed aid paid out.
- There is no decision yet on Commencement.