

Sent on Monday, March 16, 7:10 a.m.

From: Beth Boehm, Executive Vice President and University Provost

To: All UofL Faculty

Dear Colleagues,

Wow. What a week. If you were lucky enough to be doing research in a cave or anywhere where you were without access to the internet, you are returning to a different world than the one you left on March 6.

As you by now certainly know, the university has extended spring break by two days (through Tuesday, March 17) and has asked faculty to deliver all classes remotely beginning Wednesday, March 18, so that students can finish the semester and earn the credits and degrees they are expecting. The Delphi Center has trainings to help you accomplish this task (<http://louisville.edu/campushealth/information/coronavirus/faculty>), and Delphi staff will be available to help you throughout the period while we have suspended face-to-face classes. It's important to remember that while we are asking those who can do so to work remotely, the university remains open for business and is fully operational.

I understand that many of you are stressed and worried about teaching remotely; honestly, I would be fearful too if I were teaching this semester. But we have an obligation to our students and our accrediting bodies to enable our students to complete their courses remotely. I believe we also have an obligation to our faculty to help you as best we can. I am so grateful to all of you who have already taken the Delphi training or have signed up for this week's training, and I'm grateful to Delphi staff and all the other hardworking staff who have stepped up to assist in making this transition to remote instruction successful. We are asking you to give it your best effort, but I recognize this is a huge experiment in uncertain times. It will not be perfect.

Please know that we also have some students who are feeling stressed by the prospect of having to finish their courses at least partially online and are fearful that they will not be successful. Like you, they did not sign up for remote delivery of courses and may not feel like they do their best in an online environment. In a note to students, I asked that they be patient with their instructors, many of whom are teaching online for the first time. Here, I am asking you to also be patient with your students, to be understanding of their anxieties, both about online delivery and the coronavirus itself. Many of them are living at home when they would rather be here, and some are living here because we are their home.

We are committed to staying open to help our most vulnerable students have food, shelter, and access to libraries and IT (and some other essential services) while they work to finish the semester. Your leadership in modeling healthy social distancing practices, resilience in the face of stress and unfamiliar work conditions, and kindness and compassion according to our Cardinal Principles will help our students stay calm and healthy and will enable them to complete their semester successfully.

Some of our students are worried because they may have limited internet access; today we learned that Charter will offer **free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days** to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service

level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll, students should call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households. While we will be sharing this info with students, if you have students who indicate they are without internet access, please give them this information.

This is a difficult and stressful situation for all of us. You will not be perfect. Administration will not be perfect. Staff will not be perfect. Our students will not be perfect. Let's get that expectation out of the way and realize that we are all in this together; we must give each other grace and help each other out. Kindness and generosity, even remotely, are what is necessary; this is a time to resist negativity and smallness. I know we are a resilient institution, and I'm urging us all to call upon our best selves in the days ahead. We have a lot of work to do.

But please also take care of your own health, both physically and mentally. I urge you to visit the coronavirus webpage (<http://louisville.edu/campushealth/information/coronavirus>) for information on staying healthy, and know also that our Employee Assistance Program is available to you (<http://louisville.edu/hr/benefits/additional/eap>). I will also try to assist you in any way I can. If you have a concern that you think the provost can help with, please send me an email and I will do my best to get it to the person who can help if it's not me.

Welcome back, and thank you for all you do to help our students succeed.

Best,

Beth

Beth A. Boehm, PhD  
Executive Vice President and University Provost