

March 13, 2020

Dear Fellow Colleagues,

This past week has been a unique and challenging time for our campus community. Echoing Provost Akridge's comments in his March 12 letter to the campus, I too would like to thank each of you for your patience and understanding in this transition, as well as all the hard work you are doing to transition your courses from face-to-face to online instruction. There are a host of resources on campus and assistance is available, which can be found at <https://www.purdue.edu/innovativelearning/teaching-remotely/>. Your individual colleges and departments may also have resources. General information regarding COVID-19 and the university's response can be found at <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2020/Q1/need-to-know-info-about-covid-2019.html>. Be sure to check often as the information is being constantly updated.

I have received questions from a number of faculty regarding the decision to move to online instruction and whether faculty were involved in this decision. Senate leadership has been consulted and participated in conversations with upper level administration in the lead up to the decision, and continues to be involved in decisions. The Steering Committee had a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday March 9 and Provost Akridge volunteered to attend the meeting to discuss COVID-19 and hear faculty concerns. The Senate also had an Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 11. During this meeting, COVID-19 and the campus response was discussed. We shared various strategies, challenges and hurdles to such a quick transition. The administration is responsive and doing its best to provide resources and information to help faculty with the transition. Please be sensitive to the fact that during this transition, our staff and especially IT staff will be receiving more requests than usual, and so your patience is certainly appreciated.

There was also an opportunity for dialogue and discussion between the Senate Advisory Committee and the President and Provost regarding the details and implications of the decision to move to online instruction. We also discussed other issues that are still under consideration by the Administration. I found these meetings and conversations to be open, productive, and the Administration actively seeking faculty input.

In addition, the University Senate leadership is currently considering our March and April senate meetings, in light of recent guidance regarding large gatherings. Once a decision is made, I will be communicating with members of the University Senate on next steps.

As Senate Chair and as a faculty member, I have the utmost confidence in President Daniels, Provost Akridge and the administrative leadership of Purdue. I believe the leadership of the University has in mind how best to serve our students, faculty and staff while ensuring the health and safety of our campus community. The ability to move fast and quickly to the ever-changing nature of the situation is essential. Faculty input and concerns are being heard and considered, and questions are being addressed. I ask that we all be patient and flexible given the unprecedented nature of this moment.

I encourage you to contact your Senators, or myself directly with any questions or concerns you may have. I encourage Senators to share what they are hearing from their constituents. I can be reached at University Senate Chair <senate-chair@purdue.edu>

Thank you again for all you do for Purdue!

Sincerely,
Cheryl Cooky
University Senate Chair