

Faculty Affairs News 138 - April 2, 2020

Summer Teaching Online

As the current projections of COVID-19 appear to peak in Texas in May/June with a possibility to continue for the rest of the summer, UTA has decided to move Maymester, and all summer programs (Summer I, Summer II and 11-week) to entirely online modality. The Provost's Office is working with the Deans and Enrollment Management, as well as University Communication to ensure this transition occurs well and the campus community is informed of this change.

Policy Changes Due to COVID-19

- **Extension for tenure-stream faculty:** there will be leeway if a faculty member's research, scholarship, or creative activity has been delayed in any significant way due to the pandemic and the current restrictions on travel, social gathering, etc. UT System will support the Provost in making exceptions to the policy as it stands. Regents' Rule 31007, Sec. 5.1(b)(4)
- **Drop date extended:** Course drop deadline has been moved from **April 3rd** to **April 10th**
- **Drop rule:** Students who dropped a course prior to March 16th, 2020 will be assigned a W and be subject to the 6W rule. Students who drop their course between March 17th and April 10th will be assigned a Q grade which will not impact the 6W rule. Students should make an appointment with your advisor to discuss the impact of dropping a course and get necessary approval prior to dropping a class.
- **Student Workers:** those [hired prior to March 16](#) by UTA will continue to [receive](#) their pay per UTA Student Employee [Continuity Procedure](#).
- **Pass/Fail.** The provost's office is continuing to work with Faculty Senate, Undergrad and Grad Assemblies. Each college/school was asked to develop a recommendation through shared governance to share with the Provost. Recommendations include giving both faculty and students flexibility in making a decision to use a P/F option, with students fully exploring the implications for grad school, scholarships, prerequisites, etc. A decision from the Provost's Office is expected soon.

Assessing Student Engagement: IFF

Thanks to UTA faculty that are actively engaging with [Inspire for Faculty](#) (IFF) to assess their students' engagement with their course content. In March, we had 726 logins by faculty, represents a 47.86% increase in usage from the previous month. [IFF](#) provides up-to-date student engagement data from Canvas, gives faculty the opportunity to identify students who may be struggling at an early stage, and allows for individualized messages or class emails. Faculty can [login through Canvas](#) and access tutorials for easy access to their students' performance data.

Technology Updates

Lockdown Browser and Monitoring

Faculty using the Monitoring (video) browser for on-line exams, may want to remind students that they will need to have an ID to take the test. Some students (not an overwhelming number, but consistently) have returned to their home without their UTA ID and are now concerned about getting it in time for an upcoming test. To get replacement IDs in person or via mail, please contact the [MavExpress](#) office.

Lockdown Browser and Cell Phone Cameras

Students can use their cell phone cameras for the Lockdown Browsing Monitoring feature. For [Android](#) Phones; for [iPhones](#). Students will need to download both the application on their phone and the driver for their computer (Mac or Windows). For best results, students should plug their phones into their computers with a USB cable.

New Laptops and Tablets

OIT is fast tracking purchases and imaging of laptops and tablets to make them available to faculty and students. Students can check with [UTA Library](#) for availability, or call 272-3395. Faculty should submit a [ServiceNow](#) ticket with their technology request.

Faculty Survey

To better assess faculty's needs for technology or software, as well as evaluate training efforts to date, please respond to this brief [survey](#).

Adobe for Students

Adobe is offering the use of Creative Cloud to students and faculty whose learning is being affected by Covid 19. Please go to [remote.uta.edu](#) and click on Box 4-Applications. Note, this access will expire on May 31, 2020

Computer Labs are Open

Students using UTA computer labs must engage in social distancing. The labs are cleaned frequently to reduce risk of infection. For list of labs and hours, see [remote.uta.edu](#) and click on Box 8, Computer Labs.

If you have difficulty accessing the content in this announcement, please report accessibility issues to Faculty Affairs, [facultyaffairs@uta.edu](#) or (817) 272-7422.

Upcoming Events

View more [upcoming events](#) on our Faculty Affairs website.

ACUE Application Date Extended

May 8, 2020

UTA full-time faculty are [invited](#) to participate in the [Effective Teaching Practices](#) course, developed in partnership with Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). This opportunity is being funded by the President's Office and UT System and there will be no cost to you or your department.

Accessibility for All

Help is available for faculty as we seek to make all courses accessible. [Ally](#) works in Canvas to help students with alternative formats for course content. Tutorials for close-caption options are available for [Echo 360](#) as well as for [Captions](#) in Teams, Powerpoint and Studio. For assistance, please contact [ally@uta.edu](#), for Canvas or course design, contact [cdsupport@uta.edu](#).

Survey Your Students

UT System Data suggests that a number of students are struggling with technology: no laptops, spotty or no internet. [Data by zip code](#) for UTA provides insights into where these students reside. Faculty are encouraged to refer students with tech needs (including laptops) to [remote.uta.edu](#) or [ithelpdesk@uta.edu](#) for assistance.

Feeling Stressed?

UTA employees can access free counseling services via the [Employee Assistance](#) Program. Virtual counseling sessions are available for faculty, staff, their family and dependents covered by their health plans.

Teams Live Events

Need to host a large panel discussion with people joining across the globe? [Teams Live Events](#) can accommodate up to 10,000 attendees. For more information contact Gus Ruby at [gusruby@uta.edu](#). For a demonstration, join CMAS' [Session on Impact of COVID 19 on the U.S. Mexico](#) border on Friday, April 3 at 2 pm.

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