



May 01, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide important context that should be considered by individuals and committees when interpreting and evaluating the teaching, scholarship, service, and other work activities of Stanislaus State faculty members during the Spring 2020 term.

In March 2020, the world, our nation, the State of California, and CSU Stanislaus entered into a new, temporary reality. The global COVID-19 pandemic rapidly evolved from a distant news item into an immediate and present crisis, upending nearly every aspect of daily life. On March 17, the Chancellor's Office directed all CSU campuses to suspend face-to-face instruction. Two days later, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a statewide stay-at-home order, applicable to all but those working in designated essential activities.

Faculty members at Stan State, like their colleagues across the country, had to very quickly transition their face-to-face and hybrid courses to remote, virtual, and online formats, using a variety of alternative modalities. Many faculty members had little or no experience teaching through alternative or remote modalities, as there had not been such a pressing reason to do so. Support for this transition was provided by the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Academic Technology, the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and colleagues. Nonetheless, this necessary emergency response involved a transition for all faculty, staff, and students that had to occur in a very short period of time.

In addition to disrupting face-to-face instruction, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted research and scholarly agendas. The CSU system banned all domestic and international travel, recently extending that moratorium until July 31, 2020. The statewide stay-at-home order further complicated any type of research or scholarly activity for the semester, the summer and likely beyond.

For the same reasons, even service commitments were disrupted, as many agencies and organizations suspended or limited operations. All events on campus and in the surrounding community were cancelled. Because of the stay-at-home order, faculty were precluded from engaging in any face-to-face service opportunities.

None of us will soon forget spring 2020, when our ways of living and working changed drastically. As I write this letter, our expectation and hope is that the COVID-19 pandemic is a temporary situation. Even so, we know it will be some time before life and work return to anything approaching normal. At this point, we know that summer courses will also be taught in virtual or online formats and we are still assessing constantly evolving public health and other scientific information as we plan for Fall 2020. It will be very important, well into the future, for departmental colleagues, deans, and provosts to review the work of faculty members during this expanding period of time through the lens of this most extraordinary public health emergency and its impact on professional and personal lives.

Before ending this message, I want to express my sustained and genuine gratitude to all faculty members for their efforts to educate and care for our students and colleagues in this unprecedented and incredibly challenging time in world history.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Greer
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Office of the Provost

One University Circle | MSR380 | Turlock, CA 95382 | T 209.667.3203 | csustan.edu/provost
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