

MEMO

To: College of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty and Staff

From: Dean Jeff Braden

Date: April 9, 2020

Subject: Dean's Update: Coronavirus and Our College 4/9

Dear colleagues:

We're all working hard to stay up to date with all we need to know about our current challenges: how best to support our students, conduct our teaching, scholarship, and the work of the university remotely. This is hard — and there is no owner's manual for how to do it! I appreciate very much all you're dealing with, all you're doing despite the challenges. Thank you.

I'm sharing a few updates here. Please let me know what else you need. I may not have all the answers, but I'll do my best to find them for you. For now:

NC State Coronavirus Response Resources: You will find information and links to resources at go.ncsu.edu/chasscoronavirus. This site helps distill some of what the university is providing on its more comprehensive [COVID-19 response website](#).

Student Emergency Fund: An absolute bright spot in my days comes when I sit to write thank you notes to our college's faculty and staff members who are donating to the [NC State Student Emergency Fund](#). Thank you. Here's today's snapshot:

- Close to 1,100 students have requested support, of which our students represent 15%;
- 1,158 donors have committed \$924,911 to support them;
- \$515,000 in grants has been distributed university-wide, including to 119 of our college's students.

Please continue to refer students who are experiencing challenges to the [Pack Essentials site](#), where they can apply for support.

Commencement: Student leaders have told the chancellor: They understand they can't have a formal commencement ceremony this spring, but they want their commencement! The chancellor has agreed, and postponed commencement until it is safe for everybody to come to campus to celebrate the pomp and circumstance of graduation. We don't know if that will be at the end of summer, some time in the fall, or whether we'll combine December and May 2020 commencements into a single ceremony. We understand that departments

and programs may hold recognition events online this May, so long as they don't look at all like a commencement. And be assured we will also hold formal, in-person commencement events to honor spring 2020 grads when it is safe to do so. We'll have more out on this issue as it develops.

Building access: At this time, university leadership and the governor want to limit people on campus to only those who are filling necessary functions — and they want those people to be on campus for the shortest possible period. Although faculty and staff can still access their buildings using their ID cards, we are unclear if that access will change — and if it does, how quickly it could happen. I strongly encourage you to prepare for the possibility that you won't have access to campus buildings. Please limit your visits to campus to retrieving items from your office that you need to work remotely, and do so with the utmost care. We all have a public responsibility to maintain social distance, to minimize our presence in college buildings, and to keep our campus safe.

Technology support and devices: The libraries feel optimistic they'll have just enough devices to manage the need through the semester. If you have ongoing technology needs, please reach out to the libraries, using [this form](#).

Packages and mail: Every unit in the college has a plan for picking up, storing, and distributing mail. To keep contacts to a minimum, non-essential items (e.g., bulk mail, routine replacement equipment) will be stored until we return to campus. Individual units will coordinate delivery of essential items (e.g., checks, equipment you need to work remotely). Please consult your supervisor about your unit's mail/package plan.

Spring faculty meeting: We'll meet by Zoom on April 28 at 1:00 p.m. Look for the invitation soon. We'll be discussing issues of our short-term future (e.g., next year's budget, academic continuity for summer and fall) as well as long-term issues (e.g., our role in the university's strategic plan).

I encourage you to continue to reach out to each other, and to me, for support. I also encourage you to step away from your professional responsibilities at regular intervals to care for yourself and your loved ones. Satisfaction in both work and life is important — now more than ever.