



“Our Finest Hour”
March 18, 2020

"Gooooooooooooood morrrrrrrrrrrrrrrnig COE (sic)."

Must be getting "punchy" judging from the new title for these daily updates and the Robin Williams - like salutation. Why? I am overwhelmed with gratitude to our faculty and staff for the manner in which you have "stepped up" to devise alternative curricular formats to ensure students are able to continue their education in the midst of the war on COVID-19. I haven't seen the United States rally like this in support of an effort since WWII. Actually, I didn't really see that, contrary to popular belief, but I was born during the Eisenhower administration.

Now, down to business. Yesterday afternoon, Nancy Gordon, director, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, sent Dean's and department heads this link [Alternative Teaching Methods](#), and the attached [PDF](#). Nancy and staff at the FCTL would be delighted if those of you who have taught online could mentor others. If you are able and willing, please contact the FCTL and volunteer.

Tomorrow, the University will provide another announcement addressing personnel. COE has already developed a plan that will be operational immediately but could change at any time as environmental conditions might warrant. The dean's office will remain open with Barri or me present during business hours. One or two executive assistants will be present and remain on duty with either Barri or me present. While each academic department will remain open with either a department head or administrative assistant or both. GLS offices will remain open, and students will complete the school year online following the University schedule. The CDC will close by Friday of this week. The Center City Counseling Clinic will remain open only for virtual counseling sessions; no "walk ins" or face to face sessions will be held until sometime after the 2020 spring semester is over. The ATLL will continue to provide professional development via virtual delivery; no face to face PD workshops will be held between now and the end of the spring 2020 semester.

I appreciate you all more than can be expressed.

Keep calm and carry on,

David