



“Our Finest Hour” April 3, 2020

Good Friday morning to all:

Sorry I was unable to send "Our Finest Hour" update yesterday or the day before. Have been working around the clock, dozing off circa 11:45 pm then waking up at 2:00 am with ideas--all good, not nightmares. It goes like this,

Not worried about the long run; we will not only be back, but we will be back better and stronger than before. I know that is already cliché. Even so, it is true. And when we are back, I am going to become a "hugger." Have already notified our Title IX Office, just to spare you the trouble.

Between now and the time I spend at the Title IX Office, we will engage in some tough discussions that might be characterized as "planning for the worst, while hoping for the best." We need to do this while decisions are sometimes changed before they have been made. That is to say, we are monitoring environmental conditions every minute of every hour of every day. It is, frankly, impossible to "get it right" in such a rapidly changing world. And often times our decisions are preempted or altered by others at various levels.

Early next week, I hope on Monday, we will release a Post focused on "silver linings" and "planning for the worst, while hoping for the best." On a scale of 0 to 10, where "10" is a "perfect world" and "0" is locking ourselves in a safe place for 30 days, I think we are about a "6" right now. Personally, I doubt we will go further than a "7," but that's just my guess. Related to this condition is the concept of time. That's a real "crap shoot." Ergo, COE will plan and be ready for any novel coronavirus scenario we encounter during the summer 2020, fall 2020, and spring 2021 sessions. More on that in next week's Post.

For now, let it suffice to say that COE has already emerged from Spring Break in exemplary form. Faculty have stepped up to deliver their courses virtually, students have embraced these formats, and staff have adapted to working from home. We will share a few of these stories in next week's Post.

Have a good weekend, get outdoors safely, and remember you are a most valued member of the COE community.

Keep calm and make lemonade,

David