



“Our Finest Hour” May 22, 2020

News Flash: “It’s raining again.” Now we are figuratively and literally trying to keep our heads above water. Will cut today’s update short, so I can take some vacation time and get to work on an ark.

Seriously, today’s single focus is on a plan to gradually reopen COE administrative offices in Hill Hall and PCOB. The plan is attached [here](#). The Leadership Council and University personnel have reviewed the plan and given it a “thumbs-up.”

A few things to remember: (1) Always follow guidelines and orders. (That is mentioned several times in the plan, btw.) (2) The University has had a “Telecommuting Policy” in place for a few years now, so please make sure to use that form and update it as needed. Each supervisor has a copy of the latest version. (3) Even though administrative offices will soon begin to reopen on a limited basis and then gradually expand these hours and days throughout the summer months, faculty and staff are still working from home through June and then may consider incremental return schedules until we reach near-regular on-campus work schedules by the time fall classes begin in August. Even then, some may choose to complete the Telecommuting Request Form asking supervisors to consider allowing for some continued work off campus. (4) The perfect policy or plan has seldom been drafted; ergo, as this one is made operational, it could change over time. The COE plan makes mention of its fluidity and encourages all to review it on the web as often as necessary, as changes will be reflected therein. (5) Last but certainly not least, I want everyone to feel comfortable in their surroundings, so if special circumstances warrant further discussion and attention, please feel free to contact me.

Again, thanks to all who did heroic work assisting our students through completion of the spring 2020 semester. As a result, summer enrollments at this point are on par with last summer, and I expect that fall enrollments for many COE programs will hold their own as well. Let’s see how that prediction goes over the coming months.

Keep Calm and Head for the High Ground,

David