



“Our Finest Hour” July 31st, 2020

Good Rainy Friday Afternoon COE,

Several weeks back I appointed a task force to examine alternative / contingency field and clinical placements for our students this fall should they be needed. I asked the task force to provide guidelines and recommendations for programs to consider, and I charged them with making sure recommendations met or exceeded DESE competencies and other requirements. [Here](#) is the task force’s report. This document represents a good deal of work, and is now ready for broader review. The COE LC will discuss the recommendations on Thursday, August 6, 2020, and determine whether to adopt them. I have already reviewed the report and offered input. Moreover, I am extremely appreciative to those who spent so much time debating issues and articulating approaches that will keep our faculty and students safe while completing practicums and student teaching. Dr. Karen Engler chaired the task force and worked with the EPPC executive committee to identify secondary education faculty to appoint to the group. I thank Karen and the task force members: Dr. Sarah Jean Baker, Dr. Minor Baker, Dr. Rebecca Woodard, Dr. Amy Knowles, Dr. Kelly Wayne, Ms. Abby Lowe, and Ms. Kim Dubree.

Provost Einhellig called a meeting this afternoon of the seven academic college deans to discuss ways to support faculty and students as we continually develop unique ways to meet educational goals in environments that are as safe as possible. Yesterday, the Provost’s Office sent department heads and deans a draft document detailing the latest items that need to be included in all syllabi. This will be discussed during AC next Monday morning, then at ALC in the afternoon. First thing Tuesday morning, I will review with COE department heads, and then ask them to communicate directly with you if they have not already done so. In the July 16th issue of “Our Finest Hour,” I mentioned we would be detailing course level mask policies and other issues in a couple of weeks. That time is now upon us.

Sit tight until next Tuesday, and then expect to hear from your department head. They are also working on department level contingency plans for this fall. We hope to have those 99% complete by the end of next week.

Enjoy the rain and cooler weather. Enjoy the weekend. And please always remember how much you are appreciated by your students, colleagues, and me. You shape our local and international communities. Thank you each and every one.

Keep Calm and Remember “It’s a Privilege to Be a Bear,”

David