



“Our Finest Hour” August 19th, 2020

Was good to have almost everyone in the College of Education in attendance last Friday for our Fall College Meeting. Sorry about going off script, but the day and night before I was beset with questions and concerns about fall classes starting. Had intended to talk about the things we had done over the past academic year, were currently doing, and would do in the future to adapt to our everchanging environment. Had two great videos to show, as well. One was put together by Sydni, our graduate student whom we share with Andrea Mostyn, Director of University Communications. Sydni gleaned snippets from our Post over the past five months and put together a great message that is now being shared on social media. Included same in last Friday’s Post, since it did not make it to the College Meeting as planned. The second is a 30-second spot that will air about 500 times this year on the Create Channel. This one is also included in last Friday’s Post. Here are links to both, again. They are well worth your time, i.e., about one-minute total.

[COE Bear Stories video](#)

[MSU COE Create video](#)

Today is the third for the fall 2020 semester. The University is monitoring attendance in classes, any changes to course delivery, and any special circumstance faculty may encounter. Please report information to your department head as you receive it. Department heads will report data to me each Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM. Deans will report these data to the Provost’s Office where they will be aggregated and submitted to the COVID Response Team by noon. Then, the Core Executive Team will meet each Wednesday at 8:00 AM to review and discuss these same data. Whether you are teaching a traditional, seated class, a blended class, or a virtual class; please share information with your department head and let them work with me and others to fashion communiques as needed. Also, please make sure any information shared with students or others is accurate, University-level information, so folk can make informed inquiries based on facts, not hunches. Thanks for your attention to this important matter. And remember Mark Twain’s observation: “The difference between the right word and almost the right word is like the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.”

Again, if our students follow guidelines, we should be able to complete the semester as planned. If not, we will make whatever adjustments as necessary to provide a safer environment. Please stress this point with your charges. I trust our students will “step up” and make the fall semester successful. As you heard at the College Meeting, the plan is not to make all classes virtual as we did during the spring 2020 semester but, instead, make class-level decisions, as necessary. Should the larger environment be impacted negatively, we will act appropriately. Please remember the University’s goal is to adjust class by class, rather than en masse.

Stay safe, gang, not just on campus but throughout the community, as well. Remind our students to wear their masks properly. Remind folk to keep their personal distance, even with a mask. Compliment those who follow the rules.

Thanks to all for all you do. Thanks for focusing on high quality instruction. Thanks for your commitment to our students here at Missouri State University. I appreciate you very much. Am always just a phone call away 417- 576-4468.

Keep Calm and Make the Pandemic a “Teachable Moment,”

David