

From: Joanne Bruno

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 12:38 PM

To: Faculty

Subject: Academic Continuity Plan and D2L Update March 15, 2020

Importance: High

Dear Faculty Colleagues:

As we work together to monitor the development and impact of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on our campus, please know that our first priority is to protect the health and wellbeing of our students and colleagues as well as ensuring ongoing delivery and completion of our students' education.

In accordance with directions announced by Governor Wolf and Chancellor Greenstein on Friday, March 13, ESU will proceed with all spring classes being taught remotely for the week of Monday March 23 through March 29, 2020 in order to limit social interactions as a precautionary measure. As part of ESU's Academic Continuity Plan (already in motion), ESU has reserved March 16th – March 20th to provide faculty time to develop alternate teaching plans for each class they teach.

ESU has established a series of professional development opportunities available to our spring 2020 teaching faculty that cover the basics of D2L and ZOOM. A calendar of professional development sessions is available through the following link: [Center for Teaching with Technology](#). The CCT will also be providing ongoing support through individual emails and hotlines. D2L Faculty Mentors will be available shortly through CCT as well.

While a number of alternate instructional modalities are appropriate (e.g., D2L, Zoom, email, combination), it is important that academic rigor and the completion of course objectives guide your plan as referenced in the Chancellor/APSCUF joint message and in our accreditation standards. We recognize that a lot of instructional tools have been made available to faculty and students across the country during this time. However, please note that ESU is only set up to support technology issues with the modalities we have contracted (D2L, Zoom).

To help guide our support for faculty efforts in this conversion to remote delivery, an [Academic Continuity Plan template/form](#) has been developed which is attached and available on the Office of Provost site under Academic Continuity Planning. I have asked the Deans to work with each of their chairs and corresponding faculty to complete the template/form as I know each college and department may have unique situations in terms of delivering some of their courses, e.g., lab, studios, clinical, etc. As we have always stressed, this is a time for flexibility and innovation, and I have already seen so many faculty rise to the challenge and this unique experience. Once you have completed your plan, please submit a copy to your department chairperson and college dean. In addition, please include these changes in your course syllabi and post on D2L. **We are asking plans for each course be submitted by Friday, March 20th.**

We appreciate the enthusiasm we are seeing from faculty in finding the best methods of delivering content. However, please remember that students are enrolled in up to six classes and making them become familiar with six different systems may be difficult. We encourage faculty to try to stick to the basics such as D2L, Zoom, email, or a publisher's system that has already been in use in your class."

Again, many thanks to "all hands on deck" with keeping the ESU ship afloat for our students in the days ahead. We will continue to provide you with updates as well as additional support once we launch courses on March 23, especially as it relates to our students who also may have challenges with remote delivery.

Please see attached Academic Continuity Plan template for your convenience, but again your deans and chairs will be providing additional guidance for completion.

Yours,
Jo Bruno

Joanne "Jo" Z. Bruno, J.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs