Dear faculty and staff members,

Highlights for March 23

- The University of Regina has made the difficult decision to cancel Spring 2020 Convocation ceremonies.
- The University continues its transition to remote teaching and learning, with today marking our heaviest class load and student usage to date.
- Plans to deliver the Spring/Summer 2020 semester exclusively via remote learning platforms are confirmed.
- As more course delivery takes place remotely, the Dr. John Archer Library is now closed and access to computer labs will soon follow.
- Health, Safety & Wellness reminds all students, faculty or staff who may be self-isolating that HS&W is available for support and assistance.
- With more faculty and staff working remotely, guidelines to protect privacy and confidential information become even more critical.

As the situation continues to unfold with COVID-19, the health and safety of our campus community is of the utmost importance to us. In an effort to limit social contact, the University of Regina has made the difficult decision to cancel all Spring 2020 Convocation ceremonies, including those for the federated colleges. In the coming days we will determine how best to recognize and mark this significant accomplishment of our graduates.

The University is pleased to report the transition to remote learning continues to go smoothly. At last count today, 1,756 students engaged remotely with 40 virtual classes. 512 courses have information provided for students in the Remote Learning Support Site for Students.

Remember also that Flexible Learning is currently hosting support drop-ins via Zoom https://zoom.us/my/ur.remote to help answer UR Courses and Zoom questions in relation to remote teaching delivery. 9:00 am to 4:30 pm daily until Saturday.

The ongoing threat of COVID-19 transmission, along with the success of our transition to distance learning over the last ten days, has prompted the Academic sub-committee to confirm that ALL courses in the upcoming Spring/Summer semester will be offered via remote learning. Making this decision now will help students make decisions moving forward, particularly in regard to their living arrangements and accommodations.

Due to the threat of COVID-19, the Dr. John Archer Library is closed to all walk-in traffic. While three computer labs remain open for now, the University has determined that in the interests of health and safety, they will close effective tomorrow at 4:30 pm. Contingency plans for students who require access to computer equipment are being developed and will be communicated to those students tomorrow.

Any students, faculty or staff members who are required to self-isolate at this time are encouraged to contact Health, Safety, & Wellness at: Health.Safety@uregina.ca. An advisor will follow up with you to ensure you have the proper supports during this time. Rest assured, your private health information will remain private.
For faculty and staff working remotely, it is critical to ensure privacy and security are top of mind.

There are growing reports of phishing scams taking advantage of the move to work from home and trying to obtain credentials by impersonating IT teams or through fake login pages.

Additional Privacy and Remote Work information for University of Regina employees is available on the Faculty and Staff - Working Remotely section of the COVID-19 web site at: uregina.ca/covid-19/faculty-staff/remote-work

Lastly, at a time when getting information to students, faculty and staff is critical, every member of our campus community has a responsibility to ensure we have your latest contact information. Please go to UR Self-Service at: banner.uregina.ca/prod (also easily accessibly via the UR Self-Service tab at the top of the main uregina.ca site). There, you simply need to enter your User ID/Staff or Student # and your PIN. Then click on the Personal Information option.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy, and guard the health of your families and friends, by observing proper hygiene as well as all social distancing guidelines and practices.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)