

Subject line: University update - 29 May 2020

BODY TEXT OF EMAIL FOLLOWS

University update for 29 May 2020

- Remote course delivery in place for Spring/Summer and Fall 2020
- Working remotely continues until further notice
- Some research restrictions eased
- University Recovery Planning Group (URP-G) launched

Members of the University community,

I am moved by the way our students, faculty, and staff have pulled together (while staying apart!) to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19. Together, we are managing to navigate these trying times with creativity, a sense of optimism, and a spirit of co-operation.

For many, it is stressful, and conditions are not ideal. But you are making it work. I thank you for this. Doing so reduces the risk of subsequent waves of infection on our campus and in our communities.

Overall, remote course delivery continues, as does working remotely; some research restrictions have been eased; and a group of experts has been formed to guide the University's recovery planning. What follows is a brief update on each of those areas.

Spring/Summer and Fall Remote Course Delivery

Remote delivery of Spring/Summer courses is underway. Plans for the continuation of remote teaching for the Fall 2020 term are in place here at the University of Regina and at our sister institutions in the province. Co-op placements and internships pose significant challenges which we are working to address. Our current registration levels for the Fall term are holding steady with those from previous years, but we will need to do all we can to ensure those registrations become actual enrolments for Fall 2020.

Working Remotely Continues Until Further Notice

Despite certain restrictions related to research activities being eased (see below), our guidelines for working on campus have not changed. Those who are able to work from home are asked to continue doing so. Despite the province's phased resumption of some services, most campus activities do not yet qualify. We cannot safely accommodate a general return to work at this time.

Research Restrictions Eased Slightly

Restrictions around some aspects of our research enterprise have eased slightly, meaning minimal field and lab work has resumed under protocols and procedures approved by the Ministry of Health. Most restrictions remain in place, among them physical distancing. We are obliged to ensure that these restrictions are observed, and that COVID-19 risk management remains central to our planning.

Recovery Planning Underway

Lastly, we have assembled a small team that will, from scientific, strategic, and financial/risk management perspectives, inform the University's recovery process. The University Recovery Planning Group (URP-G) includes microbiologist Dr Andrew Cameron (Chair), accountability expert Dr Jacqui Gagnon, risk manager Regan Seidler, and Associate Vice-President (Financial Services) Lamont Stradeski. As in coming months we gradually move from emergency operations to more normalized activities, this group of specialists will advise the University Executive Team as we work with campus

leaders to co-ordinate the work of our academic, research, and operational teams. More will be shared on URP-G's work in the weeks ahead via updates like this one.

The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, and of the wider community including healthcare workers, remains our first priority as we navigate the unforeseen and unprecedented impacts of this pandemic. Thank you again for your patience, co-operation and understanding in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor