



June 24, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your petition. You forcefully restate two core principles guiding the university's educational mission – the central and dominant role of faculty, and the protection of faculty from demands that unreasonably place their health at risk. Yes, we agree, the faculty design the curriculum, course content, and mode of instruction, and Deans have responsibility for implementation of the curriculum. Faculty members will have the choice to teach in their preferred modality in the Fall – either in person or remotely.

Re-organizing the practical aspects of our teaching mission in rapidly changing conditions is challenging. Sometimes our communication with you may not be as quick and complete as you and we would like. Thousands of people are working round-the-clock to help us achieve our health and safety goals. Because you, the faculty, are rising to the meet the educational challenges, and because our staff are rising to meet the operational challenges, we expect to be ready when classes begin, and more people return to campus.

Specifically, we are working with the Deans and others to ensure that (1) our health services (*e.g.* hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, etc.) remain fully operational; (2) students (at all levels) continue their progress toward their degrees in a high quality educational program; (3) appropriate health and safety measures are taken to protect students, faculty, staff, and community members on our campuses; and (4) core functions (*e.g.* research, libraries, auxiliaries, athletics, community relations, philanthropy, etc.) continue safely.

Next week, we will send more detailed information about safety precautions for all venues. There will inevitably be continuing developments. We will stay in touch as we gradually restart programs and allow some people to return to campus.

Regarding curriculum, once we receive final information from the schools, we will issue a revised course catalog, indicating which courses will be fully online, fully in-person, or a hybrid of online and in-person experiences.

In the meantime, thank you again for designing our outstanding curriculum, for your deep commitment to our educational mission, and for being willing and able to adapt to such disruptive and dynamic conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol L. Folt".

Carol L. Folt  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles F. Zukoski".

Charles F. Zukoski  
Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs