

WEBVTT

Kind: captions

Language: en

00:00:03.020 --> 00:00:07.589

Good afternoon everyone.

Thank you for joining us for this

00:00:07.589 --> 00:00:11.910

special meeting of the President's

Council. Also thank you for your

00:00:11.910 --> 00:00:17.130

flexibility as we've changed from an

in-person meeting to this remote format.

00:00:17.130 --> 00:00:21.869

This was done both to eliminate a large

gathering and to make it possible for

00:00:21.869 --> 00:00:26.880

more of our colleagues to join us. I

should also mention that today we

00:00:26.880 --> 00:00:32.130

expanded this group to include

department chairs the Senate Executive

00:00:32.130 --> 00:00:36.500

Committee and the leadership of UUP and

CSEA.

00:00:36.500 --> 00:00:42.120

Thank you all so very much for making

the time to participate in this very

00:00:42.120 --> 00:00:47.930

important conversation today. Colleagues

as you know this is a fast-moving

00:00:47.930 --> 00:00:55.469

situation and frequent updates are

absolutely necessary. Yesterday

00:00:55.469 --> 00:01:01.379

you received an email from me explaining

that after Spring Break, on March 23rd

00:01:01.379 --> 00:01:08.760  
all UAlbany classes will be delivered  
remotely. This morning you received

00:01:08.760 --> 00:01:14.909  
notice that we suspended classes today,  
Thursday. This was done as a precaution

00:01:14.909 --> 00:01:21.930  
after we learned of a confirmed case of  
COVID 19 in our campus community. This

00:01:21.930 --> 00:01:26.189  
individual will remain isolated from the  
campus population until they have been

00:01:26.189 --> 00:01:31.680  
cleared by public health officials.  
Please know that we are working very

00:01:31.680 --> 00:01:36.900  
closely with Albany County Department of  
Health to reach out to any student,

00:01:36.900 --> 00:01:43.290  
faculty, or staff member who may have  
come in contact with this individual. As

00:01:43.290 --> 00:01:51.049  
we also move forward we are coordinating  
very closely with SUNY admin. Also as a

00:01:51.049 --> 00:01:56.399  
precaution we closed the business  
building today for cleaning and the

00:01:56.399 --> 00:02:02.549  
building will be re-cleaned, if you will,  
this evening just to be safe. We expect

00:02:02.549 --> 00:02:07.560  
that building to be open tomorrow  
morning for regular operations. It is

00:02:07.560 --> 00:02:13.920  
critical that we reiterate as of now  
that our three campuses will remain

00:02:13.920 --> 00:02:20.670

open. The closure of the university can only take place at the direction of the

00:02:20.670 --> 00:02:27.569

governor. As I said, these fast changing circumstances are going to continue to

00:02:27.569 --> 00:02:34.410

require frequent updates, but as this at this juncture, as we embark on some very

00:02:34.410 --> 00:02:39.780

big changes, we want to provide the most complete information available to the

00:02:39.780 --> 00:02:45.330

people who will be largely responsible for implementing those changes and that

00:02:45.330 --> 00:02:51.060

is all of you. In a moment I will be passing the but I will be passing this

00:02:51.060 --> 00:02:57.540

on to Provost Carol Kim who's also the chair of our COVID 19 task force and

00:02:57.540 --> 00:03:02.910

interim dean of undergraduate education JoAnne Malatesta to discuss our plans

00:03:02.910 --> 00:03:09.569

for academic continuity. But first let me ensure you that we are working very hard

00:03:09.569 --> 00:03:14.340

and there are many individuals who are actively engaged in this decision-making

00:03:14.340 --> 00:03:19.769

process and who are forming the decisions that we make and they are part

00:03:19.769 --> 00:03:26.390

of our core team. So today with us we have Dean Bob Griffin of the College of

00:03:26.390 --> 00:03:32.730  
Emergency Preparedness Homeland Security  
and Cyber Security we also have Dean

00:03:32.730 --> 00:03:38.760  
David Holtgrave, Dean of the  
School of Public Health, we have our vice

00:03:38.760 --> 00:03:43.680  
president for student affairs Mike  
Christakis, we have our vice president for

00:03:43.680 --> 00:03:48.299  
finance and administration  
Todd Forman, we have our associate vice

00:03:48.299 --> 00:03:53.780  
president for enterprise risk management  
and compliance and co-chair of the COVID

00:03:53.780 --> 00:03:59.730  
19 task force Kevin Wilcox,  
and we also have other folks who are not

00:03:59.730 --> 00:04:04.230  
here with us today but that have been  
informing our decisions, Graciela Desemone,

00:04:04.230 --> 00:04:10.170  
medical director of our health  
and counseling services and also Steven

00:04:10.170 --> 00:04:15.959  
Canard our emergency management  
coordinator who as we speak should be on

00:04:15.959 --> 00:04:22.289  
the phone with Albany County Department  
of Health. All these experts will be

00:04:22.289 --> 00:04:27.510  
available to answer your specific  
questions after the presentations and

00:04:27.510 --> 00:04:31.680  
we'll be taking your questions which can  
be emailed later but we will provide

00:04:31.680 --> 00:04:39.300  
more details after Provost Kim and JoAnn Malatesta finalized their presentations.

00:04:39.300 --> 00:04:44.760  
So once again thank you for joining us this afternoon and I will pass this

00:04:44.760 --> 00:04:54.710  
on to Provost Kim. Thank you all for joining us for this afternoon's update on the COVID 19

00:04:54.710 --> 00:05:05.760  
situation. In the next slide just to give everyone some background since last

00:05:05.760 --> 00:05:11.910  
January or late January we have been tracking the students, faculty, and staff

00:05:11.910 --> 00:05:17.190  
and any visitors coming and going to and from China. And of course this is from

00:05:17.190 --> 00:05:24.840  
the outbreak in Wuhan Province in China. And so travel to and from China since

00:05:24.840 --> 00:05:30.750  
January we have not had any faculty or staff returning from China and we had

00:05:30.750 --> 00:05:38.610  
two students returning from China from our study abroad program. Because of the

00:05:38.610 --> 00:05:44.970  
the way things have been unfolding with this very dynamic situation we decided

00:05:44.970 --> 00:05:52.590  
to be strategic and start up a work group for COVID 19 in order to collect

00:05:52.590 --> 00:06:00.360  
data and have information available to the President and to the campus at large.

00:06:00.360 --> 00:06:09.990  
As the situation started to really  
become much more, becoming more fluid and

00:06:09.990 --> 00:06:18.570  
more dynamic we needed to then move up  
to a structure where we had the task

00:06:18.570 --> 00:06:24.840  
force and this is the original work  
group that now has under it five sub

00:06:24.840 --> 00:06:30.990  
groups. And I'll just go through those  
subgroups quickly so the first sub group

00:06:30.990 --> 00:06:37.040  
or first overarching is the COVID 19 task  
force which is on the next slide and

00:06:37.040 --> 00:06:41.400  
this task force is responsible for  
overall coordination

00:06:41.400 --> 00:06:48.210  
of the task force, all communications are  
coming to the task force and flowing

00:06:48.210 --> 00:06:56.490  
back down to the subgroups as well as up  
to the president's office, and our group

00:06:56.490 --> 00:07:03.300  
is liaison with the Department of Health  
the County Health Office as well as SUNY

00:07:03.300 --> 00:07:11.430  
and CDC. Of the subgroups, the first is  
the campus campus incident management

00:07:11.430 --> 00:07:16.440  
team and this group is actually a  
standing committee of the campus and has

00:07:16.440 --> 00:07:22.500  
representatives from divisions across  
the campus. They meet quarterly. Currently

00:07:22.500 --> 00:07:28.199  
they are now focusing on COVID 19 and  
they are responsible for a detailed

00:07:28.199 --> 00:07:35.610  
pandemic and campus closure plans for  
these divisions that are listed here. The

00:07:35.610 --> 00:07:40.949  
next group is the study abroad academic  
support workgroup and they are tasked

00:07:40.949 --> 00:07:45.990  
with finding ways for returning student,  
study abroad students, to complete the

00:07:45.990 --> 00:07:50.220  
semester and complete their academic  
programs assist with withdrawal and

00:07:50.220 --> 00:07:56.490  
reentry issues and any kind of financial  
impacts for these students. The next

00:07:56.490 --> 00:08:05.520  
group is the impacted campus student  
support work group and they are

00:08:05.520 --> 00:08:09.990  
responsible for identifying ways to  
support the current on-campus students

00:08:09.990 --> 00:08:15.690  
who may be impacted by COVID 19, and this  
includes emotional and counseling

00:08:15.690 --> 00:08:22.080  
support for the students and other  
supports for these students. The next

00:08:22.080 --> 00:08:28.229  
group is the academic work group and  
they are working with faculty to move

00:08:28.229 --> 00:08:35.070  
courses to remote learning platforms and  
you will hear after my presentation much

00:08:35.070 --> 00:08:40.650  
more in-depth presentation from Dean Malatesta. And they are also developing

00:08:40.650 --> 00:08:46.200  
resources for the faculty to support this transfer from in classroom to

00:08:46.200 --> 00:08:52.170  
remote instruction. Advising will also be going online.

00:08:52.170 --> 00:08:57.860  
And then the next group is the residential facilities workgroup and

00:08:57.860 --> 00:09:04.680  
they are responsible for identifying or how to continue to operate during an

00:09:04.680 --> 00:09:11.519  
outbreak and this is from the residential and facilities vantage

00:09:11.519 --> 00:09:19.230  
points. The communications to date we've had multiple communications to students,

00:09:19.230 --> 00:09:24.449  
faculty, staff, and their parents all of these communications are now archived on

00:09:24.449 --> 00:09:31.170  
the information page which you can find on our front page of the website for the

00:09:31.170 --> 00:09:35.459  
UAlbany website and just to show you what this looks like on the next slide.

00:09:35.459 --> 00:09:42.839  
So at the very top you the front page is familiar to all of you but that gold bar

00:09:42.839 --> 00:09:47.699  
there that says information on coronavirus COVID 19, learn more and from



00:09:47.699 --> 00:09:52.620

there you can jump from by clicking to learn more and go directly to the

00:09:52.620 --> 00:09:59.220

information page. On the next page is that slide no I'm sorry go back one, I'm

00:09:59.220 --> 00:10:02.459

sorry.

Yes, University Health Services they have

00:10:02.459 --> 00:10:12.060

their own web page as well with many links, many pages, for information more on

00:10:12.060 --> 00:10:17.610

COVID 19 and to answer any health questions or any questions that students

00:10:17.610 --> 00:10:23.130

may have as well as faculty. The risk management team is now fielding

00:10:23.130 --> 00:10:29.670

questions around COVID-19, the director of our campus medical services, she is in

00:10:29.670 --> 00:10:34.949

daily contact with Albany County Department of Health. Many of you joined

00:10:34.949 --> 00:10:42.120

us on the March 4th town hall meeting and we had excellent participation, great

00:10:42.120 --> 00:10:48.660

turnout, and we're actually considering having another Town Hall later in the

00:10:48.660 --> 00:10:54.300

coming weeks so but virtually. And this would probably be after Spring Break has

00:10:54.300 --> 00:11:01.860

is over. And we are currently having daily phone meetings with SUNY central

00:11:01.860 --> 00:11:04.490  
administration.

00:11:06.410 --> 00:11:13.980  
So far what we've found is that  
communication is key and making sure

00:11:13.980 --> 00:11:19.140  
that communication is consistent. What we  
really need, love to have your help with

00:11:19.140 --> 00:11:26.510  
this, is to encourage your faculty, staff,  
and students to read their emails.

00:11:26.510 --> 00:11:32.940  
We have most of our messaging through email,  
we also are using social media but

00:11:32.940 --> 00:11:36.660  
because of the nature of social media  
it's not really providing, it's not a

00:11:36.660 --> 00:11:41.970  
platform to provide, so much information  
and details. So really the best place to

00:11:41.970 --> 00:11:46.920  
get information is through the emails.  
Those emails again are archived on the

00:11:46.920 --> 00:11:52.050  
information page, so if you feel like you  
might have missed an email, please go to

00:11:52.050 --> 00:11:57.510  
the information page. Because of growing  
concerns over students returning after

00:11:57.510 --> 00:12:02.790  
the spring break, we are we are moving  
now to teaching and learning remotely as

00:12:02.790 --> 00:12:09.500  
President Rodríguez mentioned, and will  
be detailed further by dean Malatesta.

00:12:09.500 --> 00:12:15.810

Our campus really has very limited facilities to isolate students during

00:12:15.810 --> 00:12:22.650  
the academic semester. Isolation requires a single bedroom with a private bath and

00:12:22.650 --> 00:12:27.600  
we just don't have those type of facilities for housing students and so

00:12:27.600 --> 00:12:34.230  
again limited facilities for isolation. And also transportation for students who

00:12:34.230 --> 00:12:42.300  
may be affected, or are in isolation it'll be very difficult to transport

00:12:42.300 --> 00:12:47.190  
them unless they are using private transportation so car, but not public

00:12:47.190 --> 00:13:00.270  
transportation, train, plane, bus. Also the primary campus functions

00:13:00.270 --> 00:13:05.160  
are finalizing their plans to address severe staffing shortages if staff

00:13:05.160 --> 00:13:12.440  
become ill and primary campus functions including food services, animal services,

00:13:12.440 --> 00:13:19.650  
the UPD, and really they're dropping all of their

00:13:19.650 --> 00:13:26.550  
non-essential functions and just going to their primary campus functions.

00:13:26.550 --> 00:13:32.790  
SED and DOE have really relaxed their regulations so this allows us to move

00:13:32.790 --> 00:13:40.560

our current courses to remote learning and teaching and we have some reprieve

00:13:40.560 --> 00:13:44.670

for the financial aid implications and that we could help our students during

00:13:44.670 --> 00:13:49.590

this time. For social gatherings of more than 50 people, local health departments

00:13:49.590 --> 00:13:56.690

really need to be consulted and help to guide you for any of these

00:13:56.690 --> 00:14:03.930

decisions about cancelling but also my office and the COVID 19 task force can

00:14:03.930 --> 00:14:15.540

help with guiding you. No work-related travel is allowed in CDC level two or

00:14:15.540 --> 00:14:22.020

three countries, and also there is recommendation by the local health

00:14:22.020 --> 00:14:28.650

department for international non-CDC level two and three country travel to

00:14:28.650 --> 00:14:35.270

those countries. But everyone should really take note that earlier this week

00:14:35.270 --> 00:14:40.350

many of the countries in Europe did not even have a level, they were not level

00:14:40.350 --> 00:14:50.220

one, two, or three. But now, Thursday most of Europe is level two or three. So again

00:14:50.220 --> 00:14:56.010

the situation is really dynamic and changing quickly. We're trying to

00:14:56.010 --> 00:14:59.640

identify students, faculty, and staff who

have traveled to restricted areas

00:14:59.640 --> 00:15:04.350  
because they have to be self  
isolating for 14 days upon return to the

00:15:04.350 --> 00:15:10.650  
country. And another challenge is the  
shortage of masks, hand sanitizer, and

00:15:10.650 --> 00:15:17.730  
other supplies that are really needed.  
There are challenges in terms of the

00:15:17.730 --> 00:15:23.820  
impact of COVID 19 on summer and fall  
enrollments, where there are concerns

00:15:23.820 --> 00:15:30.300  
about this and we are keeping an eye on  
enrollments. And one of the the

00:15:30.300 --> 00:15:34.830  
big challenges in the coming weeks is  
getting the faculty, staff, and the

00:15:34.830 --> 00:15:40.310  
students up and running in terms of  
learning and teaching remotely. And

00:15:40.310 --> 00:15:46.740  
that's a perfect way to transition now  
to Dean Malatesta's presentation and

00:15:46.740 --> 00:16:02.640  
I'll hold questions until after Dean  
Malatesta's presentation.

00:16:02.640 --> 00:16:07.620  
We are getting the slides up now. I have been asked to work with the campus community on

00:16:07.620 --> 00:16:13.920  
Academic Continuity as we begin this unique challenge in bringing our courses into a

00:16:13.920 --> 00:16:17.610  
new environment. So on the next slide you  
start talking a little bit about the

00:16:17.610 --> 00:16:22.590  
scope of this project. One of the  
first things we looked at is how many

00:16:22.590 --> 00:16:32.520  
courses are we talking about, what do you  
need to do, we noted right away that

00:16:32.520 --> 00:16:39.240  
there are about 2,500 courses that are  
enrolled at this point and we know that

00:16:39.240 --> 00:16:47.700  
there are about 58,000 seats in those in  
those courses. Heavily lecture courses.

00:16:47.700 --> 00:16:51.090  
This is one of the things that we needed  
to know as we started to think about how

00:16:51.090 --> 00:16:56.250  
we were going to go after working with  
courses remotely, what requirements

00:16:56.250 --> 00:17:04.470  
that we needed. So about  
fifty eight thousand courses and we have

00:17:04.470 --> 00:17:08.280  
just about just over a thousand faculty  
that are impacted, this is our entire

00:17:08.280 --> 00:17:12.840  
campus community that we're looking at.  
It's a huge number of courses, huge

00:17:12.840 --> 00:17:16.560  
numbers seats, so again for faculty and  
students we wanted to take into account

00:17:16.560 --> 00:17:20.820  
what we needed to look at as we began to  
tackle the problem how we're going to

00:17:20.820 --> 00:17:24.740  
move these things forward. So on the next  
slide we talk about the leadership

00:17:24.740 --> 00:17:31.140  
component, and the Provost office, as  
Provost Kim said, it will be leading and

00:17:31.140 --> 00:17:36.120  
coordinating the academic continuity  
component of what we're doing and I've

00:17:36.120 --> 00:17:39.570  
been charged to work very closely with  
the schools and the colleges. The schools

00:17:39.570 --> 00:17:44.370  
and the colleges are developing academic  
continuity implementation plans.

00:17:44.370 --> 00:17:47.730  
They are already moving forward, they've  
done a wonderful job setting up

00:17:47.730 --> 00:17:51.830  
leadership teams, a number of courses  
have already been rolled into remote

00:17:51.830 --> 00:17:57.090  
teaching options. They're coordinating  
communications both within school and

00:17:57.090 --> 00:18:00.570  
college and then of course with with the  
University as well. We're trying to

00:18:00.570 --> 00:18:04.710  
maintain a consistent message to our  
students and to our faculty about how

00:18:04.710 --> 00:18:09.029  
we're going to be moving forward. So one  
of the things we want to talk about is

00:18:09.029 --> 00:18:14.220  
the temporary remote learning experience.  
Not everything we do is going to be nor

00:18:14.220 --> 00:18:18.630  
does it need to be in an online  
environment. There will be options for

00:18:18.630 --> 00:18:23.039

some courses where faculty are working with students in conference call

00:18:23.039 --> 00:18:28.799

situations. We can have students working independent study capacities, working

00:18:28.799 --> 00:18:33.990

via email, things like that. The vast majority of faculty will likely move

00:18:33.990 --> 00:18:38.220

into Blackboard and into Zoom. So we would like to encourage you to use the

00:18:38.220 --> 00:18:41.700

learning management system that is supported by the University. That way ITS

00:18:41.700 --> 00:18:45.690

can best support what it is that we need to do going forward. So we are

00:18:45.690 --> 00:18:51.570

focusing on using our learning tools. Blackboard is a basic area where you can,

00:18:51.570 --> 00:18:56.039

everyone has access to it, every course has a Blackboard shell

00:18:56.039 --> 00:19:00.840

already attached to it. So we're building instruction manuals now about how to open

00:19:00.840 --> 00:19:05.580

them and access them so that you can upload Powerpoints, lectures, assessments,

00:19:05.580 --> 00:19:11.130

things of that nature. Zoom is an interactive, web-based medium

00:19:11.130 --> 00:19:15.860

where you can use video to connect with students and connect with different



00:19:15.860 --> 00:19:21.270  
aspects of your course in a live and  
synchronous manner. We do ask when you're

00:19:21.270 --> 00:19:27.570  
offering courses in a synchronous manner  
so live online streaming materials for

00:19:27.570 --> 00:19:31.799  
lectures, please utilize your current  
time zones, so if you're currently

00:19:31.799 --> 00:19:34.230  
teaching at 10:15 on Tuesdays and  
Thursdays

00:19:34.230 --> 00:19:40.200  
offer your synchronous lecture at 10:15  
on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can

00:19:40.200 --> 00:19:44.940  
imagine it could get a little crazy if  
we all started picking new times.

00:19:44.940 --> 00:19:48.809  
As we're thinking about the different ways  
that you're going to move into alternate

00:19:48.809 --> 00:19:53.730  
delivery of your courses, please remember  
that flexibility and accommodation for

00:19:53.730 --> 00:19:57.270  
both faculty and students needs to be  
paramount at

00:19:57.270 --> 00:20:00.390  
this point. There are students we  
understand that will have some

00:20:00.390 --> 00:20:03.660  
accessibility issues, we're working hard  
to make sure that we're accounting

00:20:03.660 --> 00:20:08.760  
students to the best of our ability.  
Again both for students and faculty and

00:20:08.760 --> 00:20:11.910  
so we just want remind everybody that  
now is the best time to remain as

00:20:11.910 --> 00:20:17.090  
flexible as possible in completing the  
semester. To get us moving forward with

00:20:17.090 --> 00:20:22.110  
tools and resources to convert your  
courses into a distance delivery format

00:20:22.110 --> 00:20:26.670  
we have created a keep teaching page  
which is very much in line with a number

00:20:26.670 --> 00:20:32.160  
of other universities across the  
country. And we have different ways to

00:20:32.160 --> 00:20:35.610  
access that, so we have a planning tool  
through ITLAL, so the Institute for

00:20:35.610 --> 00:20:38.220  
Teaching and Learning.  
It's the instructional continuity

00:20:38.220 --> 00:20:44.340  
preparing to adapt, this is an in-depth  
pedagogically based information for our

00:20:44.340 --> 00:20:48.630  
faculty. It is up and running on their  
website we will get you that link as

00:20:48.630 --> 00:20:54.150  
well. ITS has developed keep teaching  
support page. This gives you access to

00:20:54.150 --> 00:20:58.410  
all of the technology that we have  
available for you to use at this time.

00:20:58.410 --> 00:21:01.680  
So this is where you would go to get Zoom,  
you can get Blackboard training through

00:21:01.680 --> 00:21:06.600  
this medium as well. Both of those  
are exceptional websites for you to

00:21:06.600 --> 00:21:10.380  
utilize. The libraries, we spoke with the  
Dean of libraries this morning, she

00:21:10.380 --> 00:21:14.400  
indicated their presentation rooms,  
computers, there's access and

00:21:14.400 --> 00:21:18.180  
availability in the libraries for any  
faculty that would like to go in and

00:21:18.180 --> 00:21:23.220  
utilize that space for instructional  
purposes. All of all of these are

00:21:23.220 --> 00:21:26.550  
developing as resources have become  
available we're going to make sure that

00:21:26.550 --> 00:21:32.670  
we push them out onto these websites for  
you. And to do that there are a number of

00:21:32.670 --> 00:21:38.340  
faculty supports that we are also  
working very closely with, ITS and ITLAL

00:21:38.340 --> 00:21:42.780  
to put forward. They've asked that you  
email directly. These are the the emails

00:21:42.780 --> 00:21:47.130  
that they would like you to use if you  
need technical support please email

00:21:47.130 --> 00:21:52.980  
askit@albany.edu, pedagogical support, how  
do I convert something online, how do I

00:21:52.980 --> 00:21:59.910  
think strategically about finishing one week, two weeks in a row, what

00:21:59.910 --> 00:22:03.860

does it look like how do I convert what I have remaining, ITLAL is the place to go.

00:22:03.860 --> 00:22:07.680  
SUNY did a webinar last night we'll get that information up for you as well

00:22:07.680 --> 00:22:10.570  
but they have offered open SUNY resources so

00:22:10.570 --> 00:22:15.639  
link is there so that you can utilize those resources as well. ITLAL is

00:22:15.639 --> 00:22:19.000  
offering a number of sessions that will be available to faculty, there are

00:22:19.000 --> 00:22:23.951  
webinars, these will be happening tomorrow on Friday and then they are

00:22:23.951 --> 00:22:28.690  
hoping to get one later this afternoon so as soon as that comes out

00:22:28.690 --> 00:22:31.149  
we're gonna get that information out to you as well. And they're gonna be

00:22:31.149 --> 00:22:37.570  
offering walk-in hours and additional webinars into next week. We know that

00:22:37.570 --> 00:22:41.559  
there are a number of questions about lab and hands-on courses. So Blackboard

00:22:41.559 --> 00:22:45.190  
and Zoom work really well for lecture and discussion courses which are the

00:22:45.190 --> 00:22:47.789  
vast majority of the courses that we're looking to move in this direction.

00:22:47.789 --> 00:22:51.429

However, for these courses we need to take a little bit of a different

00:22:51.429 --> 00:22:56.440  
approach. Some labs can be moved completely online. JoVE is a really

00:22:56.440 --> 00:23:02.230  
wonderful medium that we have through our libraries that offers video and

00:23:02.230 --> 00:23:06.549  
other avenues for seeing labs. We would also encourage faculty to think

00:23:06.549 --> 00:23:11.230  
about providing datasets to your students so that they can at least

00:23:11.230 --> 00:23:15.970  
conduct the data analysis from home even if they can't collect it themselves at

00:23:15.970 --> 00:23:20.529  
this time. We are working extremely closely with the deans and faculty about

00:23:20.529 --> 00:23:26.620  
how best to accommodate lab and hands-on courses. A lot of really fantastic ideas

00:23:26.620 --> 00:23:30.070  
have come up out of the schools and colleges so we will continue to update

00:23:30.070 --> 00:23:33.820  
this information and push that at you as we learn more about how best to work

00:23:33.820 --> 00:23:39.159  
with these courses. This is just a screenshot of JoVE which we would

00:23:39.159 --> 00:23:45.129  
encourage certainly any of our faculty who are interested in video, using video

00:23:45.129 --> 00:23:50.700

in Blackboard for their distance education please, feel free to use this.

00:23:50.700 --> 00:23:56.970  
So the distance delivery plan, our teaching faculty and face-to-face

00:23:56.970 --> 00:24:01.629  
teaching courses have received a Qualtrics survey. Really pleased, about

00:24:01.629 --> 00:24:04.840  
sixty six percent response rate so far, I would encourage those of you that have

00:24:04.840 --> 00:24:09.070  
not yet responded to please do so. It's incredibly important for us to

00:24:09.070 --> 00:24:12.909  
understand your needs as what the survey is really about understanding your

00:24:12.909 --> 00:24:17.710  
ability to move quickly into this medium, how we can help you get there, and how we

00:24:17.710 --> 00:24:21.580  
can make it as painless as possible to get you up and running. We're going to

00:24:21.580 --> 00:24:24.370  
have those all submitted by tomorrow including

00:24:24.370 --> 00:24:28.600  
what your plan looks like and we should be ready to operationalize by next

00:24:28.600 --> 00:24:32.350  
Monday March 23rd. When I say operationalize I'm gonna be really clear

00:24:32.350 --> 00:24:37.330  
it's not necessary that your entire class be ready. We have six weeks from

00:24:37.330 --> 00:24:41.920

March 23rd until we reach finals week. We understand that this is going to take

00:24:41.920 --> 00:24:46.030  
time so we're looking for one week at a time, take your time, develop your course,

00:24:46.030 --> 00:24:52.300  
use the resources that are available to you and of course I think you know just

00:24:52.300 --> 00:24:57.250  
to reiterate, this is not how we build online courses, it's an

00:24:57.250 --> 00:25:00.610  
emergent situation, we do we have to do at this point to make sure we have the

00:25:00.610 --> 00:25:05.170  
materials and the information accessible to our students. So we're not

00:25:05.170 --> 00:25:11.410  
as concerned that we have the full array that we typically would before semester

00:25:11.410 --> 00:25:16.150  
begins. This is a screenshot of that survey, so again if you haven't taken it

00:25:16.150 --> 00:25:18.880  
please do, I think it's about four or five questions. It's been extremely

00:25:18.880 --> 00:25:22.690  
valuable in helping us figure out the resources that are necessary for faculty

00:25:22.690 --> 00:25:28.270  
and getting that up and available to you. There are a number of concerns I'm sure

00:25:28.270 --> 00:25:32.440  
we've not yet covered today and number of questions that will be coming in. We

00:25:32.440 --> 00:25:38.020

use this to illustrate that we are aware of them we are asking faculty to be

00:25:38.020 --> 00:25:41.920  
flexible and allowing for independent study for students. To provide

00:25:41.920 --> 00:25:48.580  
alternative testing methods if you have multiple choice exams but you're not

00:25:48.580 --> 00:25:51.820  
comfortable administering that online, perhaps you can have open-ended questions

00:25:51.820 --> 00:25:55.720  
using discussion boards things of that nature. Consider different ways of

00:25:55.720 --> 00:25:59.559  
assessing the the information that you need from students going forward for the

00:25:59.559 --> 00:26:03.429  
rest of the semester. There's lots of conversations about the graduate level

00:26:03.429 --> 00:26:08.110  
doctoral defenses, master's defenses, what do we have to do, and there's a lot of

00:26:08.110 --> 00:26:11.470  
conversation about field placements at this point and what we need to do going

00:26:11.470 --> 00:26:14.550  
forward. As those answers become available we will get them out to you.

00:26:14.550 --> 00:26:18.400  
But again the deans are heavily involved in these conversations, the Provost

00:26:18.400 --> 00:26:22.540  
office is leading leading the charge, everything is coming up through there so

00:26:22.540 --> 00:26:25.400



we'll get it out as soon as we possibly can.

00:26:25.400 --> 00:26:28.860  
So we're we're now free to take any

00:26:28.870 --> 00:26:42.690  
questions that you may have, if you have any questions, please email them to bszelest@albany.edu.

00:26:42.690 --> 00:26:48.860  
and we will  
be taking your questions.

00:26:48.860 --> 00:26:52.640  
So thank you Mr. president as those questions come in we do have a

00:26:52.650 --> 00:26:55.860  
couple questions from a recent  
Rockefeller College and criminal justice

00:26:55.860 --> 00:27:00.780  
faculty meeting, as well as from a chairs  
council meeting. I'm not sure who to

00:27:00.780 --> 00:27:05.160  
direct this first question to so I'll  
throw it out to the panel. There is a

00:27:05.160 --> 00:27:10.740  
strong strong preference for not  
resuming classes until March 30th if we

00:27:10.740 --> 00:27:15.330  
decide to go fully online. There is great  
angst about being prepared to do

00:27:15.330 --> 00:27:21.390  
anything by March 23rd. The faculty have  
pointed out that there's been precedent

00:27:21.390 --> 00:27:26.010  
set by several other institutions to  
take two weeks off to prepare for online

00:27:26.010 --> 00:27:34.710  
delivery. Thoughts on that? I think Dean  
Malatesta? So we understand the anxiety

00:27:34.710 --> 00:27:41.340  
around trying to move from in classroom  
teaching and the the types of materials

00:27:41.340 --> 00:27:48.750  
you currently have for teaching and  
moving to a remote type of teaching mode.

00:27:48.750 --> 00:27:56.309  
But one thing to consider is that, for  
example, one of the the tools that was

00:27:56.309 --> 00:28:02.730  
presented today was Zoom and in that in  
that platform

00:28:02.730 --> 00:28:08.790  
you're basically videotaping your  
lecture. So you could proceed essentially

00:28:08.790 --> 00:28:15.059  
the way you would have proceeded for your teaching, but it would be

00:28:15.059 --> 00:28:19.830  
captured, recorded, your powerpoints, if  
you had powerpoints, or you would be

00:28:19.830 --> 00:28:25.710  
discussing with your students. And in  
that platform this can be done and

00:28:25.710 --> 00:28:34.050  
it would not be as huge a lift. I don't know if you have anything to add JoAnne.

00:28:34.050 --> 00:28:38.280  
The Zoom account is available to all faculty and you could do it in the same

00:28:38.280 --> 00:28:43.380  
time zone that you're doing now. It would  
be much like we're doing, it would be you

00:28:43.380 --> 00:28:47.340  
speaking into a camera and you  
could do it live with your students

00:28:47.340 --> 00:28:51.100  
record it for those students that might  
not have access to it at that time

00:28:51.100 --> 00:28:55.330  
and we could get you ready to do that. We  
can do one-on-one consultations with

00:28:55.330 --> 00:28:59.380  
with faculty members to get them up and  
running on that on that technology

00:28:59.380 --> 00:29:03.160  
within the next couple of days.  
And let me just highlight that we

00:29:03.160 --> 00:29:09.460  
certainly understand the issues and  
the concerns of our faculty but we're

00:29:09.460 --> 00:29:14.650  
also asking you to think about this  
course of preparation and delivery in a

00:29:14.650 --> 00:29:20.380  
piecemeal fashion. You don't have to  
think about, I have to prepare my next

00:29:20.380 --> 00:29:28.210  
six weeks of classes by March 23rd. But  
as Dr. JoAnne Malatesta indicated, we need

00:29:28.210 --> 00:29:31.870  
to think about this piecemeal so think  
about preparing your first couple of

00:29:31.870 --> 00:29:36.549  
days first then the next couple of days  
and then the following week and so

00:29:36.549 --> 00:29:39.850  
rather than trying to get everything  
done at the same time let's do this

00:29:39.850 --> 00:29:45.760  
piecemeal and of course if you use Zoom,  
as has already been stated, you just

00:29:45.760 --> 00:29:50.980  
deliver your class that you typically  
deliver but now in a Zoom format that

00:29:50.980 --> 00:29:56.260  
will require not much preparation.  
So sticking to the online theme, Elliot

00:29:56.260 --> 00:30:01.809  
Rich from the School of Business asks, can  
TAS have access to create zoom sessions please?

00:30:01.809 --> 00:30:06.120  
Yes. Yes.

00:30:08.560 --> 00:30:15.100  
Sarah Cohen from Arts and Sciences in  
art and art history, as a student in my

00:30:15.100 --> 00:30:19.540  
department asks whether all students are  
advised to self quarantine during the

00:30:19.540 --> 00:30:24.820  
next two weeks due to the discovery of a  
case within the UAlbany community?

00:30:24.820 --> 00:30:29.620  
I think that question perhaps to Dean Holtgrave. Sure I'll start, others may want to

00:30:29.620 --> 00:30:34.360  
add to this. I think that the Albany  
County Health Department makes the final

00:30:34.360 --> 00:30:40.330  
determination of looking into who the  
student who the person knows student,

00:30:40.330 --> 00:30:45.940  
faculty, staff member, on campus may have  
been in contact with and deciding what

00:30:45.940 --> 00:30:52.240  
communications need to be made. The  
number of contacts that would need to be

00:30:52.240 --> 00:30:57.220  
contacted is very limited and I think  
that's really important to emphasize for

00:30:57.220 --> 00:31:01.390

the campus overall there would be no need for everyone on campus to self

00:31:01.390 --> 00:31:08.140  
quarantine. That would be very consistent with CDC and New York State Department

00:31:08.140 --> 00:31:12.040  
of Health recommendation and Albany County Health Department recommendations.

00:31:12.040 --> 00:31:16.270  
So there's no need for everyone to self quarantine at this time. The Albany

00:31:16.270 --> 00:31:20.050  
County Health Department would be in touch with anyone who did need to

00:31:20.050 --> 00:31:23.740  
think about such self quarantine measures. But I don't know if others might

00:31:23.740 --> 00:31:26.160  
want to comment.

00:31:30.080 --> 00:31:35.000  
And as Bruce goes to the next question, let me just emphasize that we are

00:31:35.000 --> 00:31:41.000  
working pretty closely with the Albany County Department of Health. We're

00:31:41.000 --> 00:31:45.049  
calling them on a regular basis, we're getting guidance in terms of what are

00:31:45.049 --> 00:31:49.820  
the next steps that the institutions follow, and so we are following clear

00:31:49.820 --> 00:31:54.769  
guidance from the Albany County Department of Health, and when changes

00:31:54.769 --> 00:32:02.020  
are warranted we will certainly let our university community know about any potential changes.

00:32:02.020 --> 00:32:05.720  
Zúcar Bercovich of  
Rockefeller College asks can you please

00:32:05.720 --> 00:32:10.909  
comment on the recommendations to give  
to students in internship sites in

00:32:10.909 --> 00:32:15.230  
Albany and outside of Albany  
specifically students in the New York

00:32:15.230 --> 00:32:20.720  
State Assembly New York State Senate, and  
also will students be restricted from

00:32:20.720 --> 00:32:24.340  
coming back to school?

00:32:24.340 --> 00:32:29.360  
Internships. We are working on that now a number of emails

00:32:29.360 --> 00:32:33.320  
have come in just this morning  
about the New York State Assembly and

00:32:33.320 --> 00:32:40.519  
Senate internships so we're exploring  
the options what might be available.

00:32:40.519 --> 00:32:44.450  
The internships themselves are separate  
from the University in terms of their

00:32:44.450 --> 00:32:49.490  
physical location but we are working  
with Rockefeller and with the state

00:32:49.490 --> 00:32:51.980  
and assembly internships to come up with  
a resolution.

00:32:51.980 --> 00:32:57.880  
It's also my understanding that Noah Simon our director of career & professional development is  
convening a

00:32:57.889 --> 00:33:01.700

meeting of all the career directors for campus tomorrow morning to discuss this.

00:33:01.700 --> 00:33:05.600

It is as much about our students as it is about employers as well who are

00:33:05.600 --> 00:33:11.120

seeking for looking for guidance so we'll have more more forthcoming.

00:33:11.120 --> 00:33:15.289

And just yesterday I was in the State Capitol meeting with legislators and

00:33:15.289 --> 00:33:18.529

Senators regarding funding for the University and let me just highlight

00:33:18.529 --> 00:33:23.269

that one of the major things that made me very proud as a president of this

00:33:23.269 --> 00:33:29.240

university was the their recognition of the outstanding work that our students

00:33:29.240 --> 00:33:34.159

are doing in the Capitol and in other areas and so the Capitol as well they're

00:33:34.159 --> 00:33:39.260

following the guidance of the Department of Health, CDC, they're taking all the

00:33:39.260 --> 00:33:44.040

health care precautionary measures. So if any of that changes we will also

00:33:44.040 --> 00:33:47.960

notify the campus community.

00:33:47.960 --> 00:33:51.960

Great.

Pivoting a little bit from experiential

00:33:51.970 --> 00:33:55.410

learning.

Danny Goodwin of the art department

00:33:55.410 --> 00:34:01.120  
mentions that some activities at  
studio art courses are not able to be

00:34:01.120 --> 00:34:05.740  
delivered remotely. For example welding  
and casting, whereas we are scrambling to

00:34:05.740 --> 00:34:09.610  
move as much instruction online as  
possible, he and his colleagues are

00:34:09.610 --> 00:34:14.080  
wondering what we should or could do in  
the case of small courses that require

00:34:14.080 --> 00:34:18.790  
specialized facilities and safety  
equipment and we might even bring

00:34:18.790 --> 00:34:23.240  
research into this as well.

00:34:23.240 --> 00:34:26.700  
In the  
governor's address yesterday, unless

00:34:26.710 --> 00:34:31.179  
anything has changed since then which  
I'm unaware of. Small courses there is an

00:34:31.179 --> 00:34:35.649  
opportunity for small courses to  
continue meeting and we were talking

00:34:35.649 --> 00:34:38.919  
about that and thinking about that with  
labs, studio art, just came up this morning

00:34:38.919 --> 00:34:44.889  
was on our radar we will be reaching out  
to those those faculty, the deans will be

00:34:44.889 --> 00:34:49.030  
reaching right out to the faculty to  
talk about how they can best either



00:34:49.030 --> 00:34:52.960  
continue their courses or do a hybrid.  
One of the things we want to be careful

00:34:52.960 --> 00:34:56.109  
of and be cognizant of is that a  
number of our students may or may not

00:34:56.109 --> 00:35:01.119  
return to campus so we want to be able  
to offer all of our courses in some sort

00:35:01.119 --> 00:35:04.510  
of hybrid mode so that those students  
who are not able to rejoin us on campus

00:35:04.510 --> 00:35:10.100  
are still able to participate in the  
course to the extent possible.

00:35:10.100 --> 00:35:14.940  
Yeah Danny it's a great question I think one of the  
things I heard everybody to be flexible

00:35:14.950 --> 00:35:20.140  
and understand that as this situation  
continues to evolve that there will be

00:35:20.140 --> 00:35:24.070  
additional guidance coming out from from  
both the not only the president, but the

00:35:24.070 --> 00:35:29.440  
Chancellor, the governor's office, and  
state ed, so stand by but at the same time

00:35:29.440 --> 00:35:34.119  
be as flexible as you can and be  
empathetic to the students and their

00:35:34.120 --> 00:35:35.500  
needs as well.

00:35:35.500 --> 00:35:39.220  
So a nice tag on to this  
comes from Paul Stacy of the English

00:35:39.220 --> 00:35:44.080  
department who asks, has questions  
about what is exactly meant by remote

00:35:44.080 --> 00:35:49.720  
learning and will the university be  
sensitive to the distinct ways faculty

00:35:49.720 --> 00:35:55.610  
in different disciplines teach?  
And he also has that many faculty who

00:35:55.610 --> 00:36:00.320  
have never, or indeed preferred not to,  
teach online are concerned that they have

00:36:00.320 --> 00:36:05.360  
to develop their courses into an online  
format. Paul understands from what you

00:36:05.360 --> 00:36:09.410  
said that we can simply continue to  
engage with our students via Blackboard

00:36:09.410 --> 00:36:14.690  
or email so long as we are responsible  
to the course's objectives. Can you

00:36:14.690 --> 00:36:17.420  
expand on this please?

00:36:17.420 --> 00:36:20.480  
Sure, each faculty  
member should be working with their

00:36:20.480 --> 00:36:23.870  
chair the chair should all be working  
with the deans it's understood that

00:36:23.870 --> 00:36:27.140  
there will be variation in the way that  
the courses are delivered, there by

00:36:27.140 --> 00:36:32.300  
necessity there has to be. And we're  
being I think as flexible as possible

00:36:32.300 --> 00:36:36.560

and allowing faculty to continue to offer their course in the way that best

00:36:36.560 --> 00:36:39.950  
fits the information that they're trying to share with their students, the learning

00:36:39.950 --> 00:36:44.510  
objectives and the assessment that they need to make for their students. So I

00:36:44.510 --> 00:36:47.450  
would say the faculty members should be discussing this with their chairs the

00:36:47.450 --> 00:36:50.150  
chair, if there are any concerns at that point, the chair should be discussing it

00:36:50.150 --> 00:36:54.950  
with the Dean and so on. But every flexibility is being provided and

00:36:54.950 --> 00:37:01.610  
offered to faculty. This is not an opportunity or or a concern to move

00:37:01.610 --> 00:37:04.490  
everything into Blackboard or get everybody into an online. As I said

00:37:04.490 --> 00:37:09.080  
earlier, this is not the way you launch online courses. And for that reason, in

00:37:09.080 --> 00:37:13.460  
fact, a lot of the material that's being created, the videos, the the help tools

00:37:13.460 --> 00:37:17.480  
that are being created, are specific to this situation. Having a general "how to

00:37:17.480 --> 00:37:20.720  
get started on Blackboard" is not nearly as helpful is how do you get started on

00:37:20.720 --> 00:37:24.980

Blackboard when you've got five weeks or five days right and six weeks of content

00:37:24.980 --> 00:37:28.520

left to do. We're going to be very specific, very targeted, about how we're

00:37:28.520 --> 00:37:31.600

bringing folks into these mediums if they haven't been there already, and

00:37:31.600 --> 00:37:36.740

certainly if there are unique ways that faculty are interested in completing

00:37:36.740 --> 00:37:45.230

their courses all of that is open and available. I think it's useful to

00:37:45.230 --> 00:37:50.180

separate what we mean by permanent online teaching versus what I would call

00:37:50.180 --> 00:37:53.540

a temporary remote learning experiences. And what we're really talking about here

00:37:53.540 --> 00:37:58.900

a temporary remote learning experience is not permanently moving everything online.

00:38:01.829 --> 00:38:06.489

Shifting to some questions about finances which we knew would be coming.

00:38:06.489 --> 00:38:11.469

Several from Maritza Merritt Martinez in the EOP program. Several students and

00:38:11.469 --> 00:38:15.789

parents are asking us if their room and board will be returned given the campus

00:38:15.789 --> 00:38:21.699

move to instruct remotely. How should we respond? Perhaps Todd Foreman vice

00:38:21.700 --> 00:38:24.800

president for finance and administration.

00:38:24.800 --> 00:38:26.700

Sure, my initial response to that is that

00:38:26.709 --> 00:38:33.759

the campus remains open. Our residence halls are open, we know of at least 700

00:38:33.759 --> 00:38:38.169

students and climbing that have indicated that they plan to stay on

00:38:38.169 --> 00:38:43.929

campus. Our resident dining halls will remain open. In fact we're opening more

00:38:43.929 --> 00:38:48.039

facilities over the spring break than we would traditionally do. So we're

00:38:48.039 --> 00:38:52.199

continuing to provide services for those students in need, so I think it's

00:38:52.199 --> 00:38:57.329

very premature to talk about refunds for services that we continue to provide.

00:38:57.329 --> 00:39:02.249

However there is SUNY wide conversations about what the implications would be.

00:39:02.249 --> 00:39:06.309

Right after this conversation today I'll be on a conference call with some

00:39:06.309 --> 00:39:12.040

representatives from SUNY to discuss that further.

00:39:12.040 --> 00:39:15.759

Shifting back to graduate

00:39:15.759 --> 00:39:19.630

instruction and education, Leslie Halperin of the department chair of

00:39:19.630 --> 00:39:24.459

Psychology asks, are dissertation and masters defenses able to go on as planned?

00:39:24.460 --> 00:39:31.420

That's a question for Provost Kim.

00:39:31.420 --> 00:39:33.240

So those dissertation defenses,

00:39:33.249 --> 00:39:39.729

thesis defenses, are generally small type of meetings and so I would say yes that

00:39:39.729 --> 00:39:46.600

you should proceed as usual.

00:39:46.600 --> 00:39:53.139

Very good. Morgen Salmons asks, of the Biological Sciences, the university does not appear to

00:39:53.139 --> 00:39:59.139

subscribe to JoVE, as recommended for lab courses. Access to the university library

00:39:59.140 --> 00:40:05.240

is limited to only neuroscience content. Could you comment on the possibility of subscribing?

00:40:06.680 --> 00:40:09.600

I had talked with the Dean of libraries

00:40:09.609 --> 00:40:15.789

two days ago and I was able to log into the science education piece so it may be

00:40:15.789 --> 00:40:21.099

that the mechanism for getting in needs to be updated or I'm not sure where

00:40:21.099 --> 00:40:24.430

where that person was logging in from but we will absolutely make sure that

00:40:24.430 --> 00:40:28.329

the Dean of libraries has that up and running and that we're ready to go. But I

00:40:28.329 --> 00:40:31.120

have confirmed with her that we do have the subscriptions.

00:40:31.120 --> 00:40:37.240

We also have a follow-up question from Danny Goodwin on this same topic, and Danny mentions that

00:40:37.240 --> 00:40:44.880

in art classes their students need access to another software program Adobe Creative Cloud and is only

00:40:44.880 --> 00:40:50.820

available in three labs and wondering if there's a way to pursue temporary software licenses for

00:40:50.829 --> 00:40:54.849

this, and this may be a common theme in other departments as well and will the

00:40:54.849 --> 00:41:01.100

university be able to accommodate these types of things going forward?

00:41:01.100 --> 00:41:06.279

This is really important for developing the supports for the the faculty and the

00:41:06.279 --> 00:41:10.779

units we need more information and so if we can gather that information

00:41:10.779 --> 00:41:16.869

and the needs that you have for teaching for remote teaching then take that

00:41:16.869 --> 00:41:23.890

information and please bring it to your department chair, your Dean, then we can

00:41:23.890 --> 00:41:28.119

get this information and try to help support the faculty so that they can

00:41:28.119 --> 00:41:34.210

teach remotely. I think we we still need information first before we can say

00:41:34.210 --> 00:41:41.349

definitively what we're able to to support and what we what we need extra

00:41:41.349 --> 00:41:43.600

finances for.

00:41:43.600 --> 00:41:45.780

And one more question that I think is germane from

00:41:45.789 --> 00:41:50.799

the department of music and theatre by  
Esther Scalzarr, are is they have a number

00:41:50.799 --> 00:41:55.869

of small lab based classes such as  
acting or movement. Many students in

00:41:55.869 --> 00:41:59.980

these classes are wondering if it will  
be possible for such classes to keep

00:41:59.980 --> 00:42:04.259

meeting on campus or is that not a  
matter of choice.

00:42:04.259 --> 00:42:10.329

So I think that that depends also on  
what small is I am not really sure how

00:42:10.329 --> 00:42:20.109

many do you know about how many students  
but at I think that the possibility is

00:42:20.109 --> 00:42:25.430

that they could continue to be  
be delivered and and Kevin Wilcox may be

00:42:25.430 --> 00:42:27.380

able to add something.

00:42:27.380 --> 00:42:29.440

Yeah and one of  
the things that will be developed and

00:42:29.450 --> 00:42:34.430

already is being developed by SUNY and by  
the Governor's Office had mentioned

00:42:34.430 --> 00:42:40.640

and during the his press conferences,



when we if we do small classes and that

00:42:40.640 --> 00:42:46.160

kind of thing we'll be putting into  
place social distancing prerequisites to

00:42:46.160 --> 00:42:49.700

keep people safe and that will be done  
in labs where there's you know maybe

00:42:49.700 --> 00:42:53.690

research going on and you can do that a  
number of ways you can move different

00:42:53.690 --> 00:42:57.830

shifts so people in lab at one time,  
other people in lab another time in with

00:42:57.830 --> 00:43:01.940

small classes like that as long as we  
move it to a bigger room, that you can

00:43:01.940 --> 00:43:06.710

put social distancing in place to keep  
everybody even safer to for those that

00:43:06.710 --> 00:43:09.500

have to be on campus for those kind of  
classes.

00:43:09.500 --> 00:43:12.380

Keith Earl of the Department of

00:43:12.380 --> 00:43:17.240

Physics has a couple of questions about  
connectivity and online access which

00:43:17.240 --> 00:43:22.100

might be applicable to VP Forman and to  
Dean Malatesta so I'll rattle off a few

00:43:22.100 --> 00:43:26.630

of these questions and you can address  
them as you see fit. Will Zoom have

00:43:26.630 --> 00:43:32.060

sufficient bandwidth to be able to  
handle qualitative qualitatively larger

00:43:32.060 --> 00:43:37.670

load? Not all students will have broadband or Internet connectivity, how are we

00:43:37.670 --> 00:43:42.050

thinking about addressing those needs?

Not all students will have a laptop,

00:43:42.050 --> 00:43:47.450

how will we accommodate them? And students with an iPhone, or a limited

00:43:47.450 --> 00:43:51.440

data plan may have yet other challenges.

And there may be other challenges out

00:43:51.440 --> 00:43:55.430

there as well, but could you give us some sense of how we're at least thinking

00:43:55.430 --> 00:43:59.540

about these things and what steps are being taken to date?

00:43:59.540 --> 00:44:00.760

Sure, ITS is moving

00:44:00.770 --> 00:44:05.360

to an enterprise wide Zoom license and it's my understanding that that should

00:44:05.360 --> 00:44:10.850

be available certainly by next week but I think that they think even by the end

00:44:10.850 --> 00:44:15.260

of the weekend, I'm hoping. We'll follow up with them and see where that is. They

00:44:15.260 --> 00:44:20.630

have, they are confident that it can in fact handle the additional load, they're

00:44:20.630 --> 00:44:25.460

confident that Blackboard can handle the additional load as well. In terms of

00:44:25.460 --> 00:44:30.140

students and having access. We understand that there will be some students who

00:44:30.140 --> 00:44:35.930  
don't live in an area with Wi-Fi or with access, but as Todd mentioned earlier we

00:44:35.930 --> 00:44:39.360  
are  
open campus still so we were providing

00:44:39.360 --> 00:44:43.350  
those services the libraries will be open they will have access, again I

00:44:43.350 --> 00:44:46.950  
spoke with the Dean of libraries this morning and she was very clear you know

00:44:46.950 --> 00:44:52.470  
that there will be access to computers and to Wi-Fi for any of our students

00:44:52.470 --> 00:44:55.770  
that might need it.  
That being said, we're also asking

00:44:55.770 --> 00:44:59.760  
faculty to be flexible and to recognize if they have a court you know however

00:44:59.760 --> 00:45:03.600  
works best for their course but if they have some segment of students that don't

00:45:03.600 --> 00:45:07.770  
have access to technology, and if you're choosing to move your technology into an

00:45:07.770 --> 00:45:12.060  
entirely online format are there alternative options for those particular

00:45:12.060 --> 00:45:16.500  
students? Perhaps instead of engagement and online discussions could they do

00:45:16.500 --> 00:45:20.610

thought papers or something of that nature. But how can we work best with all

00:45:20.610 --> 00:45:26.360  
of our students to make sure that we we accommodate all of them?

00:45:28.100 --> 00:45:31.640  
You know the only other thing I think I would add is that there is a

00:45:31.640 --> 00:45:39.120  
work group looking at computer ownership, Mike is exploring that, is there anything you want to add?

00:45:39.120 --> 00:45:44.860  
We articulated in a message that we sent to students today that if they encounter hardship

00:45:44.860 --> 00:45:46.940  
and you're attempting to signal that through that

00:45:46.940 --> 00:45:51.240  
financial to outreach to the Dean of Students office.

00:45:51.240 --> 00:45:56.060  
There's limited funds available through the emergency fund that we have, and those

00:45:56.070 --> 00:45:59.810  
will be sort of done on a case-by-case basis. But I think important to echo

00:45:59.810 --> 00:46:03.720  
JoAnne's point about faculty trying to work with the student as sort of the

00:46:03.720 --> 00:46:08.970  
primary on this before we go that route because the fund is not robust and we're

00:46:08.970 --> 00:46:11.730  
not be able to buy every student needs a laptop a laptop that's what it comes

00:46:11.730 --> 00:46:16.180  
down to. But that's been communicated to students broadly this afternoon, earlier today.

00:46:16.180 --> 00:46:19.500

Yeah we wish we could say  
with you know a 100 percent degree of

00:46:19.500 --> 00:46:22.830  
certainty that we will be able to  
provide services to all of our students

00:46:22.830 --> 00:46:28.320  
but this is uncharted water for certain  
and and we just hope that we're going to

00:46:28.320 --> 00:46:32.220  
be able to be as nimble as possible and  
agile and flexible with with with our

00:46:32.220 --> 00:46:36.360  
students and be able to support them the  
best we can.

00:46:36.360 --> 00:46:42.760  
So shifting to faculty. A pragmatic question from Glenn Dean, chair of sociology asks:

00:46:42.760 --> 00:46:49.740  
Will the administration discourage conference travel within the US during the next month or two?

00:46:49.750 --> 00:46:57.650  
So one of the... go ahead Kevin please yes.  
Well I think that's something that we'll

00:46:57.650 --> 00:47:05.090  
probably get more direction on in the  
future, I would say right now the United

00:47:05.090 --> 00:47:11.180  
States is probably equal to a CDC level  
three country in the eyes. The CDC does

00:47:11.180 --> 00:47:15.170  
not put a travel advisory out for the  
United States, its own country, however as

00:47:15.170 --> 00:47:19.040  
other countries are probably looking at us,  
and if you look at our numbers on this

00:47:19.040 --> 00:47:22.550  
situation we were probably a level three  
country, especially certain parts of the

00:47:22.550 --> 00:47:27.860  
country. So I would be very wise about  
where I traveled, but I would be also be

00:47:27.860 --> 00:47:32.240  
very wise about going into large  
gatherings at conferences. The first

00:47:32.240 --> 00:47:36.140  
cases in the capital district came from  
a conference. The first case in the

00:47:36.140 --> 00:47:40.550  
Washington DC area that's affecting  
national legislators came from a

00:47:40.550 --> 00:47:46.790  
conference. So I would be very cautious  
about going into large crowds with and

00:47:46.790 --> 00:47:50.660  
remember it's not just one participation  
in a panel you're shifting all the time,

00:47:50.660 --> 00:47:54.800  
so you're interacting with literally  
thousands of people. That's something I

00:47:54.800 --> 00:47:59.660  
keep in mind. I don't know if the president or Dean Holtgrave was to add anything to that.

00:47:59.660 --> 00:48:01.600  
I agree with Kevin, I think we

00:48:01.610 --> 00:48:08.930  
all need to use careful judgment in  
terms of traveling and going into large

00:48:08.930 --> 00:48:15.230  
gatherings. This issue is also being  
addressed by the associations. For

00:48:15.230 --> 00:48:19.970  
example I know of many associations that  
have already cancelled their

00:48:19.970 --> 00:48:24.980

professional meetings and so there's  
this extensive conversation about across

00:48:24.980 --> 00:48:30.170  
the country among many professional  
organizations, athletic associations, etc.

00:48:30.170 --> 00:48:37.160  
about potentially suspending cancelling  
events etc. We urge you to consider this

00:48:37.160 --> 00:48:43.340  
with care, and we urge you to stay safe  
and stay healthy and as we're

00:48:43.340 --> 00:48:47.600  
recommending to everybody else and so  
is CDC and the health

00:48:47.600 --> 00:48:52.840  
department, avoid large gatherings when at all possible

00:48:57.240 --> 00:49:03.000  
There are a number of questions in my queue regarding planned events on campus and particular

00:49:03.000 --> 00:49:08.640  
questions about whether there is a  
certain size or threshold that we, or as

00:49:08.640 --> 00:49:13.740  
organizers, should be aware of and how  
might they respond to that?

00:49:13.740 --> 00:49:19.920  
Currently there's a group that is actually meeting today, as we speak, to we've gone loaded

00:49:19.920 --> 00:49:26.310  
all upcoming events on the campus for  
the next anywhere from thirty to forty

00:49:26.310 --> 00:49:29.520  
five days we're starting with 30 and  
we'll start to expand out from there and

00:49:29.520 --> 00:49:34.110  
we will be categorizing those in, by the  
very question that was asked, by size by

00:49:34.110 --> 00:49:38.760

and something to consider is where does your audience come from? All off campus,

00:49:38.760 --> 00:49:43.920

mostly on campus, that makes a difference who the population is, whether there may

00:49:43.920 --> 00:49:48.800

be folks that are more that are older and more come with health issues.

00:49:48.800 --> 00:49:53.160

An importance obviously it's as well, maybe the biggest thing is can it be moved to

00:49:53.160 --> 00:49:57.990

Zoom, can it be moved to up to an online format to just remove all risk at that

00:49:57.990 --> 00:50:01.650

time. We will be then coming back with the recommendations that are covered 19

00:50:01.650 --> 00:50:07.619

task force to make those recommendations. I would also add, as the

00:50:07.619 --> 00:50:13.440

President said, a lot of these decisions will be made for us. In that various

00:50:13.440 --> 00:50:16.650

external entities will be making decisions on whether they're going to be

00:50:16.650 --> 00:50:21.690

cancelling various events, whether they're participating and potentially

00:50:21.690 --> 00:50:25.170

with sports without without fans, we're not there yet, but you know will that

00:50:25.170 --> 00:50:28.830

take place? We're seeing that in other conferences, other schools etc. And the



00:50:28.830 --> 00:50:32.790  
last thing is, if you have an event  
that's immediate like you need an answer

00:50:32.790 --> 00:50:36.390  
before we get this to you, call the  
office of risk management, I will

00:50:36.390 --> 00:50:39.810  
work through that with you, going down  
through the things that we should talk

00:50:39.810 --> 00:50:43.380  
about and look at and come to a very  
rational decision.

00:50:43.380 --> 00:50:48.100  
Kevin, if I could just jump in too. For people who are thinking about traveling in the United States,

00:50:48.100 --> 00:50:49.520  
just remember also

00:50:49.530 --> 00:50:54.510  
that we're starting to see some  
degradation in the transportation system.

00:50:54.510 --> 00:50:57.300  
So if you if you think about the number  
of flights that are being canceled by

00:50:57.300 --> 00:51:03.420  
American, United, Delta, Southwest, I think  
one of the one of the parts of the

00:51:03.420 --> 00:51:07.500  
equations that you need to think about  
is, will I be able to get back if I go?

00:51:07.500 --> 00:51:12.270  
So so think hard about that  
and always have a plan B

00:51:12.270 --> 00:51:17.940  
and C in your mind about if a flight, if  
I do have to travel and a flight is

00:51:17.940 --> 00:51:23.180  
canceled

what's my what's my fallback position?

00:51:23.180 --> 00:51:28.890

So just go back to the events if you're having an event and that event has some

00:51:28.890 --> 00:51:32.880

contractual obligations that have a financial component to it, I think you

00:51:32.880 --> 00:51:37.560

should look very seriously at getting out of that financial commitment before

00:51:37.560 --> 00:51:41.310

any deadlines pass by which you couldn't get your deposit back, before you would

00:51:41.310 --> 00:51:45.120

have to pay somebody a certain percentage of their fee to visit. I think

00:51:45.120 --> 00:51:48.750

that that should weigh in to your decision, that and we can't wait for a

00:51:48.750 --> 00:51:52.770

committee to tell us exactly what to do, I would definitely be thinking about

00:51:52.770 --> 00:51:55.880

that if you have external or on-campus events happening.

00:51:55.880 --> 00:51:59.640

I think, too, if you have an event and it does go on and you're responsible

00:51:59.640 --> 00:52:03.990

for organizing it, it's really a best practice now to convey to the

00:52:03.990 --> 00:52:09.060

participants what you expect in terms of trying to prevent a spread of COVID 19.

00:52:09.060 --> 00:52:13.590

So reminding all the people who would be there about hand-washing, not touching

00:52:13.590 --> 00:52:18.420  
your face, coughing into your sleeve, and  
then also asking people if they feel ill

00:52:18.420 --> 00:52:22.350  
not to come to the event, and to try and  
set that expectation as well, and also

00:52:22.350 --> 00:52:27.270  
for the people who are staffing that to  
set that expectation not to come to the

00:52:27.270 --> 00:52:29.500  
event if they're not feeling well.

00:52:29.500 --> 00:52:32.540  
Thank you, so we've touched on the health and safety of our

00:52:32.550 --> 00:52:36.720  
employees traveling, we've touched on the  
health and safety of visitors to our

00:52:36.720 --> 00:52:42.540  
campus, and folks in large events. Aaron Major of sociology department asked for

00:52:42.540 --> 00:52:46.590  
clarification about which of the working  
groups might be tasked with dealing with

00:52:46.590 --> 00:52:51.210  
the health and safety of employees. So  
for example, how to staff offices and

00:52:51.210 --> 00:52:55.740  
facilities to reduce contact, possible  
staggering of work schedules, that's

00:52:55.740 --> 00:52:59.070  
something the governor mentioned in his  
announcement the other day, or

00:52:59.070 --> 00:53:04.140  
telecommuting options and the protocols  
and procedures for employees who feel

00:53:04.140 --> 00:53:07.520  
that they are especially at risk of the

virus?

00:53:07.520 --> 00:53:09.660

So I'll answer and Todd may pick up

00:53:09.660 --> 00:53:15.660

some of the HR pieces on that. So as far as what committee that is the incident

00:53:15.660 --> 00:53:19.590

management team, Environmental Health and Safety is represented there along with

00:53:19.590 --> 00:53:23.260

facilities, these are questions we're actually talking about,

00:53:23.260 --> 00:53:27.970

we had a meeting this morning on this, and and with good productivity out of

00:53:27.970 --> 00:53:31.780

the meeting.

These folks are also there we see these

00:53:31.780 --> 00:53:36.880

in smaller episodes from time to time anyways around the campus this is just

00:53:36.880 --> 00:53:41.140

campus wide at this point in beyond us, and therefore they're very experienced

00:53:41.140 --> 00:53:45.520

in that and they will be taking steps. We're absolutely thinking about the

00:53:45.520 --> 00:53:48.430

employees, but that is the, that is the group that is thinking about the

00:53:48.430 --> 00:53:53.530

employees from that perspective and their safety as well. And we will err on

00:53:53.530 --> 00:53:57.670

the side of safety there. Then as far as work from home or whatever I'll turn to Todd.

00:53:57.670 --> 00:54:02.230

Yeah I could follow up and echo some of those thoughts. First I want to

00:54:02.230 --> 00:54:07.000

say how impressed I have been with our faculty and our staff and the

00:54:07.000 --> 00:54:10.870

extraordinary response that we've seen on campus. There's just this overwhelming

00:54:10.870 --> 00:54:15.310

outpouring of employees at the University who are concerned about our

00:54:15.310 --> 00:54:19.240

students and are supporting our faculty, and our researchers and and you know

00:54:19.240 --> 00:54:23.470

keeping things going, but at the same time people have naturally valid

00:54:23.470 --> 00:54:28.180

concerns about their own safety and what this means to them. So that is at the

00:54:28.180 --> 00:54:31.960

forefront of what we've been talking about what we've been doing. We've been

00:54:31.960 --> 00:54:36.160

working with our maintenance staff to help them understand the necessary steps

00:54:36.160 --> 00:54:38.710

that they need to take and the precautions that they should be taking

00:54:38.710 --> 00:54:42.730

to protect themselves as they go about cleaning the campus and as we ramp up

00:54:42.730 --> 00:54:47.740

those cleaning activities. We currently don't have a lot of discretion

00:54:47.740 --> 00:54:53.530  
as a university for a work-from-home  
policy, to do something in mass, we are

00:54:53.530 --> 00:54:59.020  
continuing to have those conversations  
with SUNY for those that may be and have

00:54:59.020 --> 00:55:03.010  
special circumstances or may be  
predisposed to certain types of lung

00:55:03.010 --> 00:55:08.590  
conditions, on a case by case basis, we  
can work on that supervisors should work

00:55:08.590 --> 00:55:12.850  
with Human Resources to work out a plan  
for those individuals because we do not

00:55:12.850 --> 00:55:17.980  
want to put anybody you know  
intentionally in in harm's way so to

00:55:17.980 --> 00:55:23.890  
speak. So we're working through that, very  
good question Aaron thank you.

00:55:23.890 --> 00:55:28.720  
We'd just like to remind folks viewing remotely  
that you're asked to send questions to

00:55:28.720 --> 00:55:34.420  
my email address, bselezest@albany.edu, not to the Zoom button

00:55:34.420 --> 00:55:37.090  
that you might have available on your  
screen.

00:55:37.090 --> 00:55:42.190  
Keeping with the the visits to  
campus theme for a moment Corinna Rips

00:55:42.190 --> 00:55:46.360  
Shamming of the University Art Museum  
asks that or notes that they were

00:55:46.360 --> 00:55:51.820  
beginning to plan for IMF MFA thesis  
exhibitions for the rest of the semester

00:55:51.820 --> 00:55:55.410  
and and going forward. Are there any  
guidelines in place for public

00:55:55.410 --> 00:56:04.380  
presentations and community access to  
the campus going forward?

00:56:04.380 --> 00:56:08.530  
Well I I think, and I'll actually ask Dean Holtgrave to speak about that as well,

00:56:08.530 --> 00:56:12.730  
the more I will say outside or  
off-campus people you bring in you

00:56:12.730 --> 00:56:17.560  
you've broadened your audience beyond  
our campus and there's greater risk with

00:56:17.560 --> 00:56:22.210  
that. And those are the first events, to  
be frank, that other universities, other

00:56:22.210 --> 00:56:27.940  
entities that we're seeing right now are  
terminating and looking to cancel given

00:56:27.940 --> 00:56:31.390  
that additional risk. Cornell is a good  
example of that, they're still holding on-campus

00:56:31.390 --> 00:56:37.120  
events but anything that brings  
in an off campus audience is

00:56:37.120 --> 00:56:41.350  
at this point they're not they're not  
holding those. Size would be obviously

00:56:41.350 --> 00:56:46.600  
of how many people, ability again to keep  
social distancing, are all things that are

00:56:46.600 --> 00:56:49.930

taken in consideration. But it does increase the risk when you have an

00:56:49.930 --> 00:56:54.850  
off-campus group coming on to campus, it increases the risk for our students, and

00:56:54.850 --> 00:56:56.920  
faculty, and staff that are here.

00:56:56.920 --> 00:57:00.540  
And I would just add too, and we've touched on this before

00:57:00.550 --> 00:57:05.500  
but if the event does go on, thinking about all the time kind of what can we

00:57:05.500 --> 00:57:09.070  
do in three areas, individual behavior change the kind of hand washing don't

00:57:09.070 --> 00:57:13.540  
participate in the event if you're ill call ahead if you're if you're sick and

00:57:13.540 --> 00:57:17.080  
don't just show up, the second area is making sure that the environmental

00:57:17.080 --> 00:57:20.440  
cleaning that Todd Foreman talked about earlier is happening in that area in

00:57:20.440 --> 00:57:24.880  
that event that surfaces are being disinfected, and then a lot of things

00:57:24.880 --> 00:57:28.810  
with social distancing the kind of things like classes being canceled today

00:57:28.810 --> 00:57:32.380  
is a kind of social distancing but there are smaller things we can do like

00:57:32.380 --> 00:57:36.280  
not shaking hands at the event, setting a social norm that we're gonna bump elbows



00:57:36.280 --> 00:57:40.870  
rather than doing that, making sure that  
you're not crowding a lot of people into

00:57:40.870 --> 00:57:44.530  
a tight area, that you've got a little  
bit of space so I think all of us as

00:57:44.530 --> 00:57:48.040  
leaders in the university are always  
thinking about what what can we do at

00:57:48.040 --> 00:57:50.990  
our event  
deals with individual behavior change,

00:57:50.990 --> 00:57:54.020  
environmental cleaning, and social  
distancing and there's a lot we can do

00:57:54.020 --> 00:57:55.300  
in each of those categories.

00:57:55.300 --> 00:57:57.200  
And I'd like  
to add one more thing to that that the

00:57:57.200 --> 00:58:03.080  
event organizers need to think about is  
will you have an audience? As more and

00:58:03.080 --> 00:58:08.540  
more people, right now departments of  
health are advising older people or

00:58:08.540 --> 00:58:14.210  
people who are have compromised immune  
systems that they do not go to events at

00:58:14.210 --> 00:58:17.870  
all at this point, so you need to look at  
your event not just from your

00:58:17.870 --> 00:58:22.760  
perspective of holding but also at this  
point is it worth holding, will you have

00:58:22.760 --> 00:58:26.630  
an audience there and is this if this  
goes to get worse will that just get

00:58:26.630 --> 00:58:29.720  
worse? That's something else to think  
about given the effort that you put into

00:58:29.720 --> 00:58:33.890  
these. Will it be worthwhile at  
that point to be better to postpone and

00:58:33.890 --> 00:58:37.340  
do it hopefully when we're in a better  
time and more people can come to it?

00:58:37.340 --> 00:58:42.520  
And before you write an email to Bruce, we  
recognize that this table is not the social distancing that

00:58:42.520 --> 00:58:47.560  
we were just talking about so we recognize that this is a little different case right now.

00:58:47.560 --> 00:58:51.520  
So speaking of events, there are two large-scale

00:58:51.530 --> 00:58:56.690  
events and with captive audiences that I  
have some emails in my inbox regarding,

00:58:56.690 --> 00:59:04.850  
final exams and the the  
observation by some faculty that for

00:59:04.850 --> 00:59:10.190  
some large lecture classes giving  
legitimate exams to a large group of

00:59:10.190 --> 00:59:15.020  
students through Blackboard is going to  
be a substantial challenge. So has there,

00:59:15.020 --> 00:59:19.880  
or will there be, some thought given to  
how we if we could potentially bring

00:59:19.880 --> 00:59:24.620  
students back to campus for final exams

or how that might work. And the second

00:59:24.620 --> 00:59:28.550

question which we can pivot to after  
this is what what are we thinking about

00:59:28.550 --> 00:59:33.410

as a university with regard to  
commencement? And so I would turn to the

00:59:33.410 --> 00:59:37.260

large exam questions to Dean Malatesta  
first.

00:59:37.260 --> 00:59:39.560

So we are we are seven weeks away

00:59:39.560 --> 00:59:43.940

from final exams which in the way that  
this is unfolding is a lifetime so we're

00:59:43.940 --> 00:59:47.360

we've got a little time to think about  
that. We are looking into things like

00:59:47.360 --> 00:59:53.810

ProctorU and some other software that  
allow us to Proctor remotely. So if

00:59:53.810 --> 01:00:01.010

people did put coursework online, put  
exams online. For some, you know, large

01:00:01.010 --> 01:00:03.830

courses, if you're doing multiple  
choice exams or different types of

01:00:03.830 --> 01:00:08.000

exams, there's actually a lot of self  
grading within Blackboard so there might

01:00:08.000 --> 01:00:12.710

be an ability there to actually not make  
it as difficult or cumbersome, but we

01:00:12.710 --> 01:00:17.150

are looking into a number of options  
that would be available but it is early

01:00:17.150 --> 01:00:21.320  
on and we do have a little bit of time  
to think about how all final exams will

01:00:21.320 --> 01:00:23.060  
be accommodated.

01:00:23.060 --> 01:00:25.280  
Before we jump to the commencement question I'd like to

01:00:25.280 --> 01:00:29.450  
actually read the question from Christie  
Doyle who makes some salient points

01:00:29.450 --> 01:00:33.710  
about commencement, and she would like to  
remind everybody that all students who

01:00:33.710 --> 01:00:38.330  
are eligible to graduate will do so at  
the close of the semester as usual and

01:00:38.330 --> 01:00:43.040  
per the Registrar in graduate studies  
all students will receive their diplomas

01:00:43.040 --> 01:00:48.230  
via mail as usual. As for commencement  
ceremonies this is being discussed at

01:00:48.230 --> 01:00:52.910  
the highest levels here at the  
University, within SUNY, and New York

01:00:52.910 --> 01:00:57.500  
State and around the nation. Christie  
also notes that the North American

01:00:57.500 --> 01:01:02.060  
Association of commencement officers has  
scheduled a brainstorming call for next

01:01:02.060 --> 01:01:08.120  
week to actually brainstorm about how to  
solve this. So that is a question I

01:01:08.120 --> 01:01:12.140

think we should throw out to the panel,  
President Rodriguez or Provost Kim.

01:01:12.140 --> 01:01:18.590  
I think Christie just indicated quite  
nicely in her summary where we are as an

01:01:18.590 --> 01:01:23.450  
institution. This will require close  
coordination with the state, this will

01:01:23.450 --> 01:01:28.070  
require close coordination with SUNY,  
close coordination with our Department

01:01:28.070 --> 01:01:33.250  
of Health and other officials. I think  
that at this time, given that

01:01:33.250 --> 01:01:38.870  
commencement is still a distance away  
from where we are today, we are not ready

01:01:38.870 --> 01:01:43.730  
to make a final determination on  
commencement ceremonies. Commencement

01:01:43.730 --> 01:01:47.840  
ceremonies, although as Christie  
indicated students will still graduate,

01:01:47.840 --> 01:01:51.670  
students will still receive their  
degrees from the University at Albany,

01:01:51.670 --> 01:01:56.420  
but these are celebrations that are near  
and dear to the hearts of our students

01:01:56.420 --> 01:02:02.720  
our faculty in our community members and  
so we're going to delay a decision until

01:02:02.720 --> 01:02:08.630  
we've had conversations institutionally,  
with system, with SUNY system, and with

01:02:08.630 --> 01:02:13.070

the state to determine what are the best steps moving forward. But we will take

01:02:13.070 --> 01:02:19.130  
action so that we are able to inform all our community as quickly as possible

01:02:19.130 --> 01:02:25.140  
in terms of the final determination regarding our commencement ceremonies.

01:02:30.840 --> 01:02:33.600  
Go ahead Kevin please.

01:02:33.600 --> 01:02:37.849  
One thing to add to that to what Todd brought up earlier in the important thing on that is as we do our

01:02:37.849 --> 01:02:42.260  
planning, because I know Christie's right now very nervous about this, is that

01:02:42.260 --> 01:02:45.710  
there are you know you when you look at any event another thing about having an

01:02:45.710 --> 01:02:50.150  
event and we will have to do this with commencement is Todd has said, when do you,

01:02:50.150 --> 01:02:56.930  
or when should you, make your decision? And that doesn't necessarily mean the

01:02:56.930 --> 01:03:01.520  
day before. You need to look at your event and decide what kind of you know

01:03:01.520 --> 01:03:05.839  
damages, financial or reputation, would happen if I cancel that the day before?

01:03:05.839 --> 01:03:10.460  
And if there is though are those you need to back up your decision point of

01:03:10.460 --> 01:03:13.310  
when that decision and be made and we would have to do the same the

01:03:13.310 --> 01:03:17.180  
commencement, because people have  
reservations, you know and they're making

01:03:17.180 --> 01:03:20.900  
reservations, travel plans, and all that  
and we don't want to inconvenience and

01:03:20.900 --> 01:03:24.530  
we also have obviously contractual  
obligations that we would have to commit

01:03:24.530 --> 01:03:28.430  
to. So again that commencements like  
every other event take those into

01:03:28.430 --> 01:03:33.410  
account of when you make your  
decision and don't wait that you think

01:03:33.410 --> 01:03:35.520  
you can always wait the day before kind  
of thing.

01:03:35.520 --> 01:03:36.440  
And I think it's really

01:03:36.440 --> 01:03:41.690  
important that faculty remember, and I think students  
understand that a lot of these

01:03:41.690 --> 01:03:48.470  
decisions are going to be based on on  
direction and guidance from a lot of

01:03:48.470 --> 01:03:53.089  
other players. So CDC is gonna play a big  
role in this, I think the federal

01:03:53.089 --> 01:03:56.869  
government is gonna start to step to  
propagate more regulations, certainly the

01:03:56.869 --> 01:04:00.920  
state's gonna play a role. So this isn't  
just a decision that's made up here by

01:04:00.920 --> 01:04:05.450  
the President, Provost or the vice  
president's of the deans. There there is

01:04:05.450 --> 01:04:10.069  
an awful lot of direction that that is  
going to be put in place between now and

01:04:10.069 --> 01:04:15.050  
and commencement that is going to drive  
what a final decision will be on on

01:04:15.050 --> 01:04:17.660  
commencement and even beyond.

01:04:17.660 --> 01:04:22.480  
So a question for VP Christakis, because this is one of his staff who has

01:04:22.490 --> 01:04:26.839  
raised this question. But it also  
transcends across vice presidential and

01:04:26.839 --> 01:04:30.020  
academic areas. Is, our office is run by  
Student

01:04:30.020 --> 01:04:34.910  
staff or largely staffed by students.  
Should student staff be instructed to

01:04:34.910 --> 01:04:40.100  
come back to campus March 23rd in order  
to work and run our various offices or

01:04:40.100 --> 01:04:44.720  
play the strong roles that they do?

01:04:44.720 --> 01:04:47.540  
We're open for business and I'm not going say it's

01:04:47.540 --> 01:04:52.190  
business as usual, this comment came up  
yesterday when Todd Forman and I were at

01:04:52.190 --> 01:04:55.430  
the Student Association meeting by a  
student who's a student employee.



01:04:55.430 --> 01:04:59.990

A number of our students, as I think our family and staff know, need to work to

01:04:59.990 --> 01:05:05.630

attend school. So there's there's the element of how comfortable are you

01:05:05.630 --> 01:05:10.940

returning? I encountered a student, Todd encountered a student who in

01:05:10.940 --> 01:05:15.830

effect said I'm going home my parents want me home. They're not coming back, at

01:05:15.830 --> 01:05:18.590

least not in the near future. There was a student last night who in effect said that

01:05:18.590 --> 01:05:24.140

I'll be back on the 23rd to work. You know in my mind and I'd certainly defer

01:05:24.140 --> 01:05:28.720

to others. I think it's a case-by-case situation. The challenge that we have in

01:05:28.720 --> 01:05:33.620

several of our student facing units is that the vast majority of our frontline

01:05:33.620 --> 01:05:37.730

staff are students. And so in Student Affairs in particular and I think maybe

01:05:37.730 --> 01:05:41.960

some other areas we are giving consideration to how we can leverage our professional

01:05:41.960 --> 01:05:46.790

staff, who are coming in those in those spaces accordingly.

01:05:46.790 --> 01:05:51.620

It may have an impact on service delivery and we're cognizant of that

01:05:51.620 --> 01:05:56.270  
but we've asked units to try to give  
consideration to where they can place

01:05:56.270 --> 01:06:01.520  
essential sort of functions in the event  
that as I think the Provost or JoAnne

01:06:01.520 --> 01:06:07.670  
indicated, staffing levels become, sort of  
for lack of a better word, volatile.

01:06:07.670 --> 01:06:12.830  
So both with regard to staffing and kind of  
back to our theme of large events the,

01:06:12.830 --> 01:06:17.240  
kind of unanswered question or unasked  
questions so far is particularly with

01:06:17.240 --> 01:06:22.850  
regards to enrollment and recruitment.  
What are the university's plans around

01:06:22.850 --> 01:06:27.650  
our planned open house, upcoming open  
houses, other visitations, and

01:06:27.650 --> 01:06:32.900  
particularly since we are now attempting  
to involve our schools and colleges and

01:06:32.900 --> 01:06:37.250  
our faculty in these events more, so it's  
much more broadly encompassing than previously.

01:06:39.360 --> 01:06:43.579  
So there's three  
elements to this at least in my mind

01:06:43.579 --> 01:06:49.819  
I'll certainly defer to others Kevin  
included on this. As much as we can right

01:06:49.819 --> 01:06:53.180  
now  
and as JoAnne said you know some of this

01:06:53.180 --> 01:06:58.099

is a lifetime away, we're looking at the option of possible postponement is as

01:06:58.099 --> 01:07:00.680

the first option. So as some of you know, if you don't know,

01:07:00.680 --> 01:07:04.880

April 4th is our accepted student open house. That is not unique to us, there are

01:07:04.880 --> 01:07:08.089

other competitor institutions who also have open house

01:07:08.089 --> 01:07:14.089

scheduled for that weekend. We don't know what April 4th will look like for us. We

01:07:14.089 --> 01:07:17.989

have engaged our enrollment management team Ed Englebride, Mike McCune our

01:07:17.989 --> 01:07:21.709

undergraduate admissions director are looking at what a postponement option

01:07:21.709 --> 01:07:23.869

that may modify the program a bit for that delivery.

01:07:23.869 --> 01:07:30.650

We're also concurrently looking at a virtual delivery of open house that

01:07:30.650 --> 01:07:39.289

showcases our academics, our faculty, our cutting-edge research areas. You know the

01:07:39.289 --> 01:07:43.190

visitation experience is one of the primary elements that drive a student's

01:07:43.190 --> 01:07:46.670

decision. So it does put us at a disadvantage if we're not able to

01:07:46.670 --> 01:07:53.150  
provide that. We're also trying as much  
as possible to monitor what other

01:07:53.150 --> 01:07:57.979  
competitor institutions are doing. And so  
we have been in communication as best as

01:07:57.979 --> 01:08:02.809  
we can around that. As we know  
information we will certainly relay it

01:08:02.809 --> 01:08:08.029  
to to the deans and to their faculty who  
have been terrific partners as we stand

01:08:08.029 --> 01:08:12.019  
up a more robust engagement of our  
prospective students.

01:08:12.019 --> 01:08:16.159  
If I could just jump in though for for faculty and staff,  
I think there needs to be an expectation

01:08:16.159 --> 01:08:19.790  
that we're gonna ask them to do some  
different things. So we may be doing more

01:08:19.790 --> 01:08:24.139  
personal outreach than we have in the  
past, that we may have more call trees

01:08:24.139 --> 01:08:29.000  
that we're asking people to participate  
in. You know listen, the admissions

01:08:29.000 --> 01:08:34.819  
process is our lifeblood and it's all of  
our lifeblood so so we need to we need

01:08:34.819 --> 01:08:38.029  
to work around this current situation to  
make sure that we're strong in the future.

01:08:38.029 --> 01:08:45.380  
One final question and turn it  
over to the president for concluding

01:08:45.380 --> 01:08:50.719  
remarks and this ties back to something  
that was just asked but which was noted

01:08:50.719 --> 01:08:53.839  
earlier and this is worth perhaps  
finishing on. Has there been any

01:08:53.839 --> 01:08:57.529  
consideration about what would lead to a  
closure of campus? Not

01:08:57.529 --> 01:09:01.940  
business as usual? Is this something that  
would be decided at the SUNY or

01:09:01.940 --> 01:09:04.500  
governor's office level?

01:09:04.500 --> 01:09:07.920  
And the answer  
to that is yes. As was stated earlier

01:09:07.930 --> 01:09:14.000  
the the only person entity that can  
order the campus to be closed or

01:09:14.000 --> 01:09:19.190  
authorize the campus to be completely  
closed is the governor. That would be

01:09:19.190 --> 01:09:24.380  
based upon a lot of different advice a  
lot of it coming from Department of

01:09:24.380 --> 01:09:28.640  
Health, New York State Department Health,  
CDC, etc. but that's where that decision

01:09:28.640 --> 01:09:33.170  
would be made. It could come from the  
campus knowing what's happening on the

01:09:33.170 --> 01:09:37.910  
campus reaching up through SUNY to the  
governor's office to ask you know we

01:09:37.910 --> 01:09:41.900

have these situations can this be considered? But that's really where that

01:09:41.900 --> 01:09:46.310  
would generally come from that isn't a unilateral decision that the campus can make.

01:09:46.310 --> 01:09:53.420  
Before we turn it over to the president to conclude, we just like to note that all of your

01:09:53.420 --> 01:09:57.530  
questions have been received in my inbox. I know there are a number of questions

01:09:57.530 --> 01:10:03.380  
in the Zoom platform. We will consolidate and group these questions

01:10:03.380 --> 01:10:07.760  
and make them available along with responses on our FAQ page in the very

01:10:07.760 --> 01:10:11.960  
near future. So thank you all who did write in and at this moment I would turn

01:10:11.960 --> 01:10:15.680  
it back to president Rodríguez for some concluding remarks.

01:10:15.680 --> 01:10:17.260  
Thank you Bruce.

01:10:17.270 --> 01:10:22.670  
First of all and thank you to my colleagues who are here to my left and to my right

01:10:22.670 --> 01:10:27.440  
and who have been engaging enhancing these have very very important questions.

01:10:27.440 --> 01:10:34.280  
Also colleagues thanks to all of you who are joining us via Zoom and paying

01:10:34.280 --> 01:10:37.850  
attention to these critical and

important issues for our institution, and

01:10:37.850 --> 01:10:42.830  
for our University. We sincerely  
appreciate and thank you for your active

01:10:42.830 --> 01:10:50.900  
leadership and engagement. Colleagues,  
emergencies, crises, and disasters happen

01:10:50.900 --> 01:10:58.460  
almost on a daily basis worldwide. And  
they're not necessary due to our making.

01:10:58.460 --> 01:11:05.960  
But nevertheless we are responsible to  
deal with them. Leadership, strong

01:11:05.960 --> 01:11:11.330  
leadership is shown in the times of  
crises. And so we appreciate

01:11:11.330 --> 01:11:15.620  
your leadership in allowing us to  
continue to move forward as an

01:11:15.620 --> 01:11:22.870  
institution. You have heard on many  
occasions flexibility and empathy.

01:11:22.870 --> 01:11:31.220  
We encourage you, we ask you, flexibility  
and empathy. I can tell you that I am

01:11:31.220 --> 01:11:38.480  
very proud of our team who's been  
proactive, who's been actively engaged in

01:11:38.480 --> 01:11:45.830  
working with our campus community. Our COVID 19 task force who is working very hard

01:11:45.830 --> 01:11:51.950  
to deal with these issues, our incident  
management team, other individuals that

01:11:51.950 --> 01:11:57.350  
do not form part of these teams but are  
actively engaged and working very hard to

01:11:57.350 --> 01:12:02.210  
ensure that we continue to move forward.  
All of you, and all the members of our

01:12:02.210 --> 01:12:07.010  
campus community who are vital and  
critical and important component of what

01:12:07.010 --> 01:12:12.860  
we do as an institution and how we move  
forward. Let me assure you that you have

01:12:12.860 --> 01:12:21.140  
people that care, people that are working  
incredibly hard to ensure the health the

01:12:21.140 --> 01:12:28.160  
safety and the well-being of our campus  
community. Again leadership is more

01:12:28.160 --> 01:12:34.610  
important now than ever. And we are very  
fortunate to have tremendous expertise

01:12:34.610 --> 01:12:38.270  
in our midst  
on the topics that are most important at

01:12:38.270 --> 01:12:44.650  
this moment and you have heard from many  
of them. Colleagues, coordination,

01:12:44.650 --> 01:12:51.170  
communication is critical and so let's  
communicate, let's coordinate if you have

01:12:51.170 --> 01:12:56.360  
questions if you have concerns please  
let us know. And again I want to

01:12:56.360 --> 01:13:02.840  
emphasize that we must be flexible and  
we must show empathy as the situation

01:13:02.840 --> 01:13:08.180  
warrants to work with our faculty, our  
staff, our students, and our community



01:13:08.180 --> 01:13:11.930

members as well.

Again communicate on questions and

01:13:11.930 --> 01:13:18.770

issues of importance and as always

please consider what you decide to share

01:13:18.770 --> 01:13:25.280

via email or who you are copying in your emails. When in doubt

01:13:25.280 --> 01:13:32.630

pick up the phone, walk across the campus

walk down the hallway and speak with

01:13:32.630 --> 01:13:38.090

someone, but be mindful what you say and

what you put on email and who you're

01:13:38.090 --> 01:13:45.079

forwarding it to. Finally let's all make

sure that we continue to treat the

01:13:45.079 --> 01:13:52.760

members of our campus community with the care the dignity and that the respect

01:13:52.760 --> 01:14:02.360

that we all deserve. Please remember, your

words, your actions, they matter and

01:14:02.360 --> 01:14:09.409

people are listening and people are

looking. Your words, your actions matter

01:14:09.409 --> 01:14:14.869

even more now in a time as we are

confronting. So again thank you for

01:14:14.869 --> 01:14:19.639

everything that you do day in and day

out in support of our students, of our

01:14:19.639 --> 01:14:24.320

colleagues and of this community as

a whole. Again I want to give special

01:14:24.320 --> 01:14:30.619

recognition to the many individuals who have been working literally 24/7 for the

01:14:30.619 --> 01:14:35.840

past several weeks on the COVID 19 task force and it's working groups. This is a

01:14:35.840 --> 01:14:41.960

monumental task that is being carried out with great leadership, competency, and

01:14:41.960 --> 01:14:51.619

grace. I want to remind you that the three campuses remain open. Once again I

01:14:51.619 --> 01:14:58.460

ask you that you remind your faculty, your staff, your students to check their

01:14:58.460 --> 01:15:04.099

emails on a regular basis and to visit our COVID 19 webpage on the

01:15:04.099 --> 01:15:11.510

UAlbany website. Colleagues, today more than ever we're going to need to be here

01:15:11.510 --> 01:15:18.889

for each other. We're going to need to dig in deep to be patient, to be kind, to

01:15:18.889 --> 01:15:23.840

be compassionate, to be considerate, in times of increased stress and

01:15:23.840 --> 01:15:31.099

uncertainty. This is absolutely important and it is our responsibility as leaders

01:15:31.099 --> 01:15:35.809

of this great institution. I am absolutely confident that we will

01:15:35.809 --> 01:15:41.690

succeed in this and I know that even in these uncertain waters, we will each grab

01:15:41.690 --> 01:15:47.330  
an oar that we can row in the same  
direction to the safety and the

01:15:47.330 --> 01:15:56.300  
well-being of our community. So I ask you  
all to please be safe, be well, stay

01:15:56.300 --> 01:16:02.450  
healthy, and again please watch for your  
emails, texts, and the official UAlbany

01:16:02.450 --> 01:16:08.990  
social media channels for ongoing  
updates. As the great Bing family we will

01:16:08.990 --> 01:16:14.990  
get through this together. Again it is  
during these challenging times that we

01:16:14.990 --> 01:16:21.860  
must together unleash UAlbany's  
greatness. Thank you so very much for

01:16:21.860 --> 01:16:25.700  
being with us today,  
take care and we look forward to further

01:16:25.700 --> 01:16:29.300  
updates and communications with the  
campus community.

01:16:29.300 --> 01:16:32.380  
Muchisimas gracias.