



I'm not sure if I just have cellular damage from my earlier years as a time-traveller, but this week...every day felt like a week. I believe that means I'm about to finish up April regardless of what the calendar says about March:)

That means it's even more important to pivot to essentials as teachers right now. What worked and what didn't quite get done by your students this week? No one wants us making more major changes the rest of the semester. Already did that once, which was more than enough for us and our students. But there are probably ways to tweak and scale back your plans now that you've seen how the first week of the new world order played out for you and your learning partners.

Have a great weekend. Maybe walk in the sun, with or without a mask. Take more than a few deep breaths. And keep letting me know how I can help:)



Important Upcoming Dates for WLS

Weekly Friday WLS Zoom Every Friday @ 10-11am:

weekly check-ins are not required, but I want to make them regularly available so that we can address and discuss any WLS issues that emerge this semester.

Work Study Support Zoom Hours

Yes, we have the best work study system in the multiverse:) Hector and Nadia will be available to support us while working from home and Zooming. Contact Luz if you have questions or want to find out how they can help. We're all learning ways to adapt, so the more you tell us about your instructional, service, and research needs, the more we can refine our services.

- Monday-Nadia 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- Tuesday-Hector 8:00 am-10:00 am
- Wednesday-Nadia 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- Thursday-Hector 8:00 am-10:00 am
- Friday-Hector 10:00 am-12:00 pm/ Nadia 9:30 am-10:30 am

UTRGV Calendar

- April 10-11: Easter Holiday
- May 1-7: Final Exams
- May 7: Spring classes end; Official last day of the term
- May 11: Grades due at 3pm

CLA/WLS News

- No pooling, and if your students mention issues with other instructors meeting during your scheduled class times, let me know something: student name so I can look up the schedule, course type, or even the instructor name. Whatever people are comfortable sharing so that we can reach out and take care of this. I relayed this to Walter and he relayed it to a meeting of Deans on Thursday. I've talked with most of our folks who are doing synchronous meetings and making arrangements for students to have multiple points of access since synchronous (even during a previously set class time) is not an option for some of our students with COVID-19 issues changing their daily schedules and responsibilities.
- [CTE](#) and FSD are doing a bang-up job of getting resources developed and delivered to faculty in the midst of this situation, so take advantage and give them feedback. They depend on us to let them know what we want in terms of professional development.

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- Wifi info for quick reference:
 Texas: <https://www.wififreespot.com/tex.html>
 McAllen: <https://makethemostofmcallen.com/make-the-most-of-wifi-hotspots/>
 Edinburg: <https://www.wifimap.io/3556-edinburg-free-wifi/map>
 Harlingen: <https://www.wifimap.io/3350-harlingen-free-wifi/map>
 Brownsville: <https://www.cob.us/1991/City-Wi-fi-Hotspots>

Here are some details from the Dean's Office. Thanks to Pam for compiling all this info:) We've had a variety of emails from different sources throughout the week, so here is a chunk of it all in one place.

1. Information about IT available equipment if needed for off campus access
 - a. Headsets with will soon be available again.
 - b. Approximately 60 loaner laptops for staff, students, and faculty are available--requires a service ticket!
 - c. There are cell phone stands available—Can be picked up at ACSB (ED) or BACAS (BRN): they are pretty simple but you might call if you want one!
2. Vital is the information regarding the closure of all campus buildings at 6:00 p.m. IT and COLTT services will be available online after those hours from what we understand at this point.
3. The E10 parking lot is effectively closed starting Monday for SOM Drive Thru Corona virus testing. A limited number of handicap parking spots will be made available for faculty/staff working in ELABN (we were the only unit to ask about this).
4. It is vital that there are **NO STUDENTS in CLASSROOMS!!** However, if faculty are using a classroom to deliver zoom or record themselves on an ongoing basis, they must **reserve the room and should use it during the regularly scheduled class time.**
5. The pass/fail option is still being discussed. At present, the Faculty Senate have out surveys in their departments to gather information for Dr. McHatton before a final call is made. Many people are considering an option similar to that of Tx A&M for which students OPT IN to the P/F option and the default would be receiving a grade. We will keep you posted on this.
6. For staff and faculty working remotely, the matter of keeping their personal phone number private is sometimes a concern. Downloads of CISCO Jabber through IT will allow office phone calls to be transferred or made from private phones while keeping the personal number masked. The interested party needs to download the software, available through IT, and put in a service ticket to set this up. We really do not know more about how it works and recommend that your faculty or staff member contact IT directly
7. One of the few problems consistently being reported is with Respondus. Students using phones as their primary or only means of access are having all manner of problems with Respondus. Please remind your faculty of the need to provide an ample window for students to be able to secure adequate internet access and to please be flexible with those that have problems. Do not forget the unique situation we are dealing with and let us err on the side of **flexibility and compassion.**

WLS COVID-19-Related Questions/Answers from WLS Meeting this Week (3/27)

- WLS RESOURCES: Check out our [WLS COVID-19 resources page](#). Jeffrey is regularly updating resource links, including info from Student Accessibility Services and several other resources this week.
- CENTRALIZED UTRGV RESOURCES: Also, check out the the [Student FAQs](#) and [Faculty FAQs](#) through the UTRGV COVID-19 page. I've sent word up that these need to be updated, that students need a centralized place for info about course-related issues, and I also suggested that someone create a day-in-the-life PSA for students about the different challenges that occur throughout the day of managing life and remote instruction. The info I passed on included questions about traveling to campus, getting technology, accessing wifi, etc.
- RESOURCES: I've asked several sources to add FAQs pages to the utrgv.edu landing page slideshow for quick access.
- PEER OBSERVATIONS: Do them for this year if still needed (by the end of spring for OYAs and part-time) and the end of summer if others need them. There are multiple ways to do this with materials review, feedback

reviews, and online site/participation access. I will outline some advice on this and distribute it next week. I am volunteering to do some version of a peer observation for anyone still needing one to allow others to focus on their classes for Spring. Don't be shy, but contact me soon so that we can make arrangements and discuss the details.

- REMAINING QUESTIONS I'M INVESTIGATING: course evaluations, plans or ideas about cost to students for repeating a converted class not finished online, Zoom password prompts for students who haven't needed a password previously to access

Compliance

- Upload syllabi for all Summer and Fall 2020 courses, even if some of Fall 2020 is tentative, the syllabi with requirements for materials need to be uploaded in FPT so that registering students have access to course requirements. Technically, we have until the first days of classes each semester, but earlier is better for the reasons above.
- Your Fall 2020 book selections should be done and registered with Follett thru Blackboard, even if you're OER or NO REQUIRED MATERIALS.

WLS Continuity Plan

We've submitted a [detailed continuity plan for WLS](#) that includes an opening statement about Outcomes. This is important to understand because if the academic calendar is not changed for Spring 2020, we need to make assurances that existing SLOs were in place and regular assessments were in process/completed.