Update from Interim President Tom Galligan

- Thank you to everyone through these unprecedented times. Health and safety is our priority. Please shelter in place and stay at home.
- A hiring freeze is in place due to the unknown budgetary impact.

Academic Affairs Updates

- Questions can be submitted to academicaffairs@lsu.edu.
- Faculty members should reach out to all of their students and provide an updated syllabus and online course instructions. Communication with students is crucial to their success.
- We advise low-tech options for your courses and assessments in order to be supportive and inclusive.
- Graduation has been postponed. Over 2,000 graduating seniors voted to postpone commencement via a Student Government poll. A new date has not been rescheduled.
- The only change that has been made to the academic calendar is the “W” drop date. The deadline to drop courses and/or resign from the University has been extended. Students will now have the option to drop courses through Monday, April 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
- Faculty are allowed to make changes to their syllabi. Changes should be justifiable and relative to pedagogical necessity to change to an online instructional environment.
- Residential Life is assisting students who are still living in student housing to maximize social distancing. Meals are available.
- The Student Health Center is open and is meeting with students remotely.
- The LSU Food Bank is currently closed, but Student Affairs is working to bring this back online in a varied format. In the interim, we are collaborating with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank where donations can be made. Student assistance can be made at the LSU Emergency Relief Fund.
- Advisors are hosting Zoom calls with students and preparing them for the fall semester.
- Communication for summer courses will be sent soon. Transition to an online format as much as possible.
- A pass/fail grading option is still being considered; however, there are some areas that will be negatively affected by this. The Board of Regents has confirmed the pass/fail option could negatively affect students’ TOPS eligibility if they needed to increase their GPA this semester to retain their funding. It could also negatively affect other sources of financial aid.
- Tenure-track process – a year’s extension is available to faculty members, except for the 2019-2020 cohort as packets are already through the process. There will need to be a decision made on whether or not a year’s extension is desired. Faculty need to contact their Faculty Senate representative to let them know their opinion as to whether this would be an opt-in (eligible faculty would elect to participate) or an out-out (eligible faculty would automatically receive it) process. Tenure-track faculty will have the option to revoke the extension if they choose to do so at a later time.
- Graduate students will be granted extensions, and the Graduate School will be sending out additional information.
- Graduate stipends and tuition benefits will remain in place.
- International Programs unit is open for visas and other issues that may arise.
• Student workers are allowed to work remotely. Units should provide as much remote work as possible to students and allow flexibility for students to maintain funding. If units struggle to find remote work for student workers, LSU Online is in need of tech savvy students for additional help. Other units may also be in need of help from student workers.

Faculty and Student Remote Learning and Support Resources
• LSU Online has Zoom experts and hyper-care from 8AM to 9PM for questions though the extended hours of support will continue based on use.
• Webinars are being offered at 10AM, 2PM, 5PM every day for faculty resources.
• Faculty resources and student resources are available for remote learning and support.
• Tips for low-tech options: upload a full PowerPoint or full document that students can download on phone, so if they are offline they can continue studies. WIFI is not guaranteed in all households at all times.
• ProctorU is still an option, but everyone nationally is joining on to use. Chromebooks or smartphones, or older laptops cannot use proctoring service so alternative testing options should be considered.
• Examity live proctoring is offline and shutting down as their proctors are in India, and India has essentially shut down. This presents concerns for ProctorU’s capacity as well.
• Live Zoom lectures need to be synchronized with the original time the class was offered if instructors choose to offer their courses synchronously.
• Please continue to fill out the faculty resource survey at the bottom of the page for faculty needs.

Research
• Research labs must now be closed with exceptions for the following:
  o if living organisms need to be maintained;
  o instruments need to be maintained i.e., stocks and tissue samples, liquid nitrogen and its monitoring;
  o research as an active response related to COVID 19
• Number of personnel in labs should be kept to minimum, should adhere to social distancing, and also consider alternate personnel in case initial personnel become unavailable.
• The LSU Sponsored Program family is still open and working remotely.
• ORED is working actively with faculty on campus to obtain research funding from NSF. If you need help with grant writing and proposals, please contact ORED.

Enrollment Management
• Currently, LSU has the largest applicant pool in its history.
• Prospective students have until May 1st to finalize their decision; we will be flexible with that date.
• SPIN has been cancelled and now offering a virtual SPIN experience.
• Summer Orientation – fast approaching. Working on online orientation if no physical orientation. Working with partners in Student Life to build a robust Welcome Week online.
• Retention – students can Zoom or FaceTime to meet with retention specialist to discuss progress for semester completion.