

Colleagues,

I write to you today to update you on the status of the Academy's current actions and contingency plans regarding the Covid 19 outbreak. In an effort to provide the most complete and up to date information for all full time and part time faculty, ***I will be holding a virtual town hall for all faculty at 1300 tomorrow, 13 March.*** Participation is not mandatory but I would love to have you attend in person in Admirals Hall of you can join remotely via the following link:

<http://www.maritime.edu/facultytownhall>

Further, I want to relay to you the current status of the campus as well as our priorities moving forward this semester.

Status:

As of the date (and time!) of this email, we have not been directed by any of our regulators (Gov, BHE, local BOT) to close the campus or to go to alternate modalities of instruction nor have we had a positive test for the Covid 19 virus. Additionally, as you may have read in earlier emails from Health Services, many actions have been undertaken to educate the community and to initiate proactive steps to prevent the virus from spreading. Updates from Health Services and other supporting departments are available on the homepage.

Priorities:

Our priorities in these challenging times are...

1. To keep our cadets, faculty and staff - and by extension, their families - safe
2. To keep the Academy from becoming a mass-transmission center (such as the BioGen conference)
3. To find a path to get our 1/c cadets to degree completion in time for the 20 June Commencement
4. To minimize the academic disruption for the 2/c, 3/c and 4/c cadets

In consideration of the aforementioned and in keeping with the latest recommendations from the Governor's office, for the foreseeable future we will continue to run the academic program as is ... and we will concurrently plan for contingencies. Regarding the latter, I am asking for your help. As this matter is rapidly escalating, the administration has asked the academic department chairs to work with the faculty to investigate and, where possible, prepare alternative modalities of instruction. The timeline of such a drastic step is unknown, but could likely occur in the coming week or two. It is our hope that with a campus-wide collaborative approach, we are able to meet objectives 3 and 4 above regardless of the direction forced upon us.

I hope you have time to join me tomorrow. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns as this matter evolves, please contact the Dean or Provost.

In closing, I want to thank the MSCA state president and chapter president for their positive input and support. I also want to thank the academic department chairs and all faculty for your creative thinking and thoughtful ideas.

My kindest regards,
Fran