Dear Faculty and Staff,

I want to share some updates on our College’s activities--what we have accomplished in the last two weeks and our plan to continue instruction and operations going forward.

Above all, I want to thank everyone. Through your agile adaptation of duties and responsibilities, maybe some tears, and through sheer will, we have come together to support each other and our students in a time where we are needed the most!

**COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

**Operations**

Our plans for continuity of instruction and non-instruction operations are working so far.

Classes are set to begin on Monday, and I believe we are ready! Thank you all so much for all you are doing to make that happen.

Faculty searches are continuing, via Zoom.

Research proposals are being prepared and submitted. Our CPH Research Office, even when working remotely, is as responsive as ever to your research needs.

Tenure and promotion procedures are in place so we can remain on schedule for this year.

**Community Engagement**

Our first COVID-19 Hackathon got off to a great start with over 90 students. I was so inspired to see all our students ready to work to make a difference in our communities. We should have the products of our students’ work to showcase on Monday. Thank you faculty mentors! This is a great opportunity for experiential learning for our students.

Grace Bagwell Adams and I are serving on the UGA Community Taskforce to leverage UGA resources to help our local and state communities. Activities are widespread from mask making to epidemiological modeling of COVID-19 in Athens. Please let me know if there are specific community needs you hear of and/or CPH resources we can offer.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Strategic Planning and Branding**

The hard work that we did in the Fall and early Winter on our strategic plan and branding positioning is not lost. We will need to adapt those plans given the lessons that we have learned and the opportunities we are seeing in this period. I will be pulling together groups in the next week to continue our work on those plans.

**Maintaining Continuity**
How can we maintain continuity and unity? Stay in touch with each other. Stay in touch with your students. Be emphatic to everyone and respectful of our unique circumstances as we adapt to a new normal. I will be scheduling a weekly Zoom lunch. Whoever would like to join me, please do. Invitations will go out on Monday.

Again, I want to express my deep gratitude for all your work, transitioning almost seamlessly to our new normal, and being willing to go above and beyond. I could not be prouder or more humble to serve as your Dean.

Any questions you may have – let me know. My virtual door is always open!

Take care of yourselves and your families,
Marsha

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