

**Subject:** April 17 Update

**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 at 3:43:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** CPH Faculty & Staff on behalf of Marsha Davis

**To:** CPH-FACSTAFF@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We continue to live in a paradoxical world. This is a season of rebirth, blossoming, and celebration of the accomplishments of our and our students' work during this academic year. Yet, there is so much suffering in the world and we are living with a great deal of uncertainty. Let me try to answer some of the questions I know you are having.

### **Graduation?**

We did hear from President Morehead today that the Spring 2020 Undergraduate Commencement ceremony is scheduled for Friday, October 16, 2020. The Spring 2020 Graduate Commencement ceremony will be scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020.

Holding these events will be dependent on whether the gatherings are deemed safe by federal and state officials. At a college level, we will be discussing options for our in-person ceremonies.

In the meantime, we do not want to go without a May celebration of our graduating students and their hard work. We are working on a project to recognize each of our grads virtually. We are asking each student to send in short video and photos that will be compiled for online viewing. This will allow us to celebrate each student and for them to have their own moment to share thoughts as they transition from UGA and the College of Public Health. We will also record a message from the faculty and staff to the students. I will be asking some of you to help by recording yourself reading a line or two. We hope this will be a fun and engaging way to celebrate virtually and provide a way for our grads to share with their friends and family.

### **Budget?**

As I know you are well aware of, COVID-19 has resulted in great financial losses for UGA.

The recent directive from the State of Georgia's Office of Planning & Budget and the University System of Georgia is creating greater challenges for our College. However, we must comply to help minimize the University's losses and continue to be good stewards of our finances from all sources (Foundation, research, and state dollars). What is essential spending? Ask yourself what the true impact would be in deferring the charge to FY21. If the answer is not significant risk of critical or irreplaceable value, then you should likely consider deferring to FY21. Another exercise is to ask yourself if your budget was subject to a reduction, is this something you would continue to purchase. Also please note that after receiving Department/Unit head approval for an expenditure you deem essential, the final approval of the purchase will lie with Central not with the department/unit or the College.

We have not received any directives for the budget for FY21. We will communicate information as soon as it becomes available.

### **What about classes in Fall?**

The Deans are meeting next week with President Morehead to discuss Fall 2020. I believe we

should proactively plan for a number of scenarios -- be prepared to teach online, have all our 7010 classes online, modify classroom meetings spaces to allow for adequate spacing among other activities. We are also discussing these options with Deans and Associate Deans throughout UGA to gather the best thinking.

### **When will we come back into the office?**

We have no directive on this at this time. However, I will be working with our Associate Deans, Faculty Advisory Staff, and administrative staff to determine when we open, how we will open, with the health of all as our primary objective.

### **Strategic Plan?**

The due date of our Strategic Plan has been moved to July 15. I have asked a subcommittee of our strategic planning committee to relook at our strategic plan in light of the lessons we have learned from the pandemic. Certainly remaining resilient and being able to adapt quickly in all the areas of our mission are high priorities. Our capacity for online learning needs to be increased as well as training for faculty to enhance their online learning teaching capabilities.

**But we do have a lot of knowns and, of these two, I am very certain.**

### **Amazing Faculty, Staff and Students!**

We are an incredible college; our talents and skills are evident every day. I have received emails from students who have expressed their gratitude and pride of being in a College where the professors are so attentive and they feel so cared for. I remain humble to be your Dean during this time. Next week will be Honor's Week and I will be sending a daily email to highlight our best!

### **Taking Care of Yourself is Important!**

So this week, Thursday to be specific, I hit a wall. I couldn't answer another email or phone call, write a coherent sentence, or think about the future decisions that will need to be made, much less make a decision. However, I was given a task of putting together the "Dean's Playlist." Apparently it is what hip Deans do and 'm not going to be outdone. So I put together this list, listening to the music as I added songs that have been a part of my life, appropriate to COVID-19, or odes to great musicians we have lost during this time. Note there are some that didn't make the playlist and are more situation specific.

Regarding the budget, well, *Ain't to Proud to Beg* comes to mind. On the 30th Zoom call of the week, Alison Krause's lyrics ring true -- "*you say it best when you say nothing at all.*"

After the singing, the dancing, and reliving the wonderful memories that music can bring, I was reenergized for another day. All to say, here is my list. And please take care of yourself through this uncertain marathon.

Jolene--Dolly Parton (why sing Happy Birthday twice while washing your hands, when this song will do!)

The End of Innocence--Don Henley

Cover Me--Springsteen

Summer's End--John Prine

The Prayer--Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli

Reach Out (I'll Be There)--Four Tops

Think--Aretha Franklin

Ain't No Mountain High Enough--Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell

See You in September--The Happenings

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize (Hold On)--Springsteen, The Seeger Sessions

If Tomorrow Never Comes--Garth Brooks

Are You Alright--Lucinda Williams

Bridge Over Troubled Water--Simon and Garfunkel  
If I Needed You--Emmylou Harris  
Wide Open Spaces--Dixie Chicks  
The Gambler--Kenny Rogers  
Red Rubber Ball--The Cyrkle  
Someday We'll Be Together--Supremes

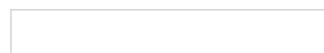
And someday we will. Until then, let me hear from you and stay well!

Marsha

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