Corona Virus 19 (COVID 19)

You received a message from CofC Emergency Management Team this past Friday afternoon with a link to the College’s FAQs. The Provost is a member of this team and will continue to make plans for our campus and keep you up to date. Our Center for International Education has been, and will continue to be, in contact with our students, faculty and staff who are studying abroad. Additional meetings of the Emergency Management Team have occurred on March 2, 3 and 4 as we continue to plan.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued guidance that institutes of higher education should “consider postponing or canceling student foreign exchange programs,” because it is likely that “students may face unpredictable circumstances, travel restrictions, challenges in returning home or accessing health care while abroad.” The CDC also suggests institutions “should evaluate the risks associated with choosing to maintain programs abroad and take the appropriate proactive measures.”

As of yesterday, the CDC and U.S. Department of State (DOS) issued a Level 3 Travel Advisory (Reconsider Travel) for Italy generally and Level 4 (Do not Travel) for the Veneto/Lombardy regions in Italy. Considering these directives and developments, the College of Charleston has decided to cancel its FYE 2020 spring break program to Italy. Additionally, the College is holding off making financial commitments on 2020 summer study abroad programs to Italy until further notice. The same policy will apply to programs in any country for which CDC and DOS raise the travel advisory to Level 3.

At this time, per the recommendations of the CDC, the College strongly discourages travel to China, South Korea, Japan and Italy. Persons who still must travel overseas should make every effort to stay up to date regarding often rapidly-changing governmental regulations, including executive orders and guidance issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Department of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Visa and entry restrictions have been placed on Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Myanmar, Sudan and Tanzania in addition to Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. Please note: if you visit one of these places under a travel advisory (Level 3 or 4), you will need to self-isolate for 14 days before returning to campus.

We are aware that this situation creates extreme anxiety and uncertainty and that the impact is profound for many of you. However, we cannot compromise the safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff. The College’s Emergency Management Team and Center for International Education will continue to monitor this dynamic situation very closely and follow the guidelines recommended by CDC and DOS. A decision for the future will depend on developments in the next couple of days and weeks.
Other resources:

http://studenthealth.cofc.edu/novel-coronavirus-faqs/

World Health Organization (WHO) Information about Coronavirus

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Situation Summary

Day of Service, March 7

The special 250th anniversary campus-wide day of service, presented by our Center for Civic Engagement, is this Saturday. I encourage you to share this broadly and to also consider participating yourself.

Here is the link to register: http://volunteer.cofc.edu/

Searches

I have heard from the three dean search chairs, Gibbs Knotts for Honors, Valerie Morris for SSM, and John White for HSS, and these searches are progressing positively. The Honors Dean Search Committee has narrowed their pool to 10 semifinalists and will conduct Skype interviews soon. HSS and SSM Search Committees will be narrowing their pool of candidates to the semifinalists list for Skype interviews this month.

I encourage you to participate in all the search processes occurring on campus this semester. The finalists for the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs are on campus this week and next. Please join me in congratulating the Provost Search Committee on selecting four outstanding individuals as finalists.

Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee most recently met on February 12th to discuss revised versions of the mission and vision statements, and institutional core values. The Steering Committee has three sub-committees centered around the proposed pillars: student experience & success, academic distinction, and employee experience & success. Each sub-committee has participated in virtual meetings to develop overarching goals, strategies and success metrics within their respective pillars. The subgroups met on March 2, and the Senior Team, deans and Academic Council will meet with Blue Beyond consultants on March 11. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee will meet one more time on March 16 prior to an overall update to the Board of Trustees on March 20.

The strategic plan is still in draft form. We will invite feedback from the Board of Trustees and campus stakeholders to the most recent draft. In the meantime, I encourage you to examine the reports and data stored on the strategic planning internal SharePoint site; all faculty, staff and currently enrolled students have access to this information via their College of Charleston credentials. If you were unable to attend any
meetings or have additional feedback for the committee, the open comments box is still active on the strategic planning website.

**Great Colleges Survey Results**

Michelle Smith and the interim provost met with members of the Senior Leadership Team and deans on Friday afternoon, February 21. Individual deans and division leads will be sharing plans with their respective units. We agreed on several areas of focus from this survey to be included in the strategic plan.

**Tenure and Promotion, Third Year Review, Post Tenure Review**

The president and interim provost very much appreciate these thorough reviews, which begin with the candidates’ completion of their materials, the department chair (as well as the departmental panel chair as need be) adding key materials and an interview, and the dean conducting an independent review. All these materials are stored electronically for the PTR Committee or the Advisory Committee on Tenure and Promotion and Third Year Review. These materials then arrive in the Provost's Office, where the review process continues in consultation with the president. This year, we had 17 third-year review cases, 26 promotion and tenure cases; 8 promotion to professor cases, and 37 post-tenure review cases, including 13 seeking superior reviews.

The president and interim provost are impressed with the thoroughness of the review process as well as the smooth and efficient functioning of the PTR and the Advisory Committee members listed below

**Members of the Advisory Committee on Tenure, Promotion and Third-Year Review**

**Chair:** Christopher Korey - Biology  
David Desplaces - Management and Marketing  
Margaret Hagood - Teacher Education  
Joe Kelly - English  
Hector Qirko - Sociology and Anthropology

**Alternates: (*used this year)**
Laura Brock - Teacher Education*  
Todd Grantham - Philosophy  
Alem Teklu - Physics and Astronomy*  
Doug Walker - Economics*  
Elaine Worzala – Finance

**Members of the Post-Tenure Review Committee**

**Chair:** Kristin Krantzman - Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Jason Coy - History  
Genevieve Hay - Teacher Education  
Nancy Nenno - German and Russian Studies  
Elena Strauman - Communication
Alternates: (no alternates were used this year)
Erin Beutel - Geology and Environmental Geosciences
Peter Calcagno - Economics
Bonnie Devet - English
Julie Swanson - Teacher Education
Joseph Weyers - Hispanic Studies