

Demands Made on Behalf of Student Body Concerning COVID-19

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I. Account Adjustments:

- A. Students who do not remain on-campus shall receive an account adjustment for the cost of their housing and associated fees for the remainder of the semester.
- B. Students who do not remain on-campus shall receive an account adjustment for their dining and associated fees for the remainder of the semester.
- C. All Students shall be compensated for any consequential difference in tuition and fees pursuant to the transition from in-person to online classes and campus operations for the remainder of the semester.
- D. Students who have chosen to study abroad in the Spring of 2020 shall be reimbursed for all expenses, including return travel costs and program expenses.
 - Should Summer 2020 Study Abroad Programs be canceled, any student who has already paid fees for the canceled program shall be reimbursed for said fees.
- E. All students' parking citation balances shall be zeroed in order to ease financial difficulties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- F. All UMass students with campus parking passes shall be reimbursed for the proportion of the semester cost remaining, as most students will not be eligible to use the passes on campus due to the transition to remote learning.

II. Housing:

- A. Any student who must stay on campus due to personal circumstances shall be allowed to remain without having to present a reason or documentation, given the plethora of possible extenuating circumstances and the difficulty of producing documentation for certain circumstances.
- B. University Administration shall advocate to landlords to have flexibility for student tenants during this pandemic (e.g. changing to payment plans for rent).
- C. University Administration shall publicly support [HD.4935](#), "An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID19 Emergency," as a means of protecting students from the cruelty of evictions during this pandemic.

III. Academic Affairs:

- A. In accordance with Professional Staff Union's (PSU) request, there should be no classes for the week following Spring Break, following the lead of many other universities and colleges, in order to allow more time for faculty and support staff to move course content online; this will also ensure that students are better able to take these courses in an alternate format.
- B. All attendance requirements shall be called off for every class for the remainder of the semester; lectures shall be recorded so that students who may be unable to remotely attend do not miss class material.
- C. The Registrar shall allow students to withdraw from courses without receiving a "W" on their transcript; additionally, the withdrawal date shall be extended to Friday, April 10th, to allow students an adequate decision period about whether or not a course works remotely.
- D. For laboratory, studio, and capstone courses (including, but not limited to, Music, Dance, Theatre) the Registrar shall allow extensive flexibility regarding incompletes and withdrawals, pursuant to the fact that these courses do not translate easily to remote learning models.
- E. All courses shall be made available to be taken as incompletes that may be completed any semester prior to graduating to ease the transition to remote learning.
 - Any course taken as an incomplete can be transitioned to the equivalent letter grade earned should the incomplete not be finished prior to graduating (i.e. how students can decide to make a course taken pass/fail count as a letter grade after the fact).
- F. All courses this semester shall be made available to be taken as Pass/Fail to ease the transition to remote learning. This proposal has already been adopted by other Universities and has been advocated for by many UMass Amherst faculty members within and beyond its faculty senate.
 - Even if taken P/F, courses shall count as fulfilling the major requirement so long as no minimum course grade is required to enroll in sequential courses.
- G. For students who chose to study abroad Spring 2020 in order to fulfill a major requirement, that requirement shall be considered fulfilled or they may choose to participate in another study abroad program in a later semester.
- H. If there is no way to take a course that was being taken abroad online through UMass, the associated course and credits shall be considered complete and earned.
- I. Students who are on track to graduate in May 2020 upon successful completion of their courses shall be guaranteed their diplomas. This shall occur even if their graduation requirements are disrupted by matters related to the transition to remote learning.

IV. Labor:

- A. Every *student* employee shall continue to be paid as normal for their position, regardless of whether they remain on campus or are able to complete their work.
 - Should the University fail to provide people their expected pay, we will see an increase in food and housing insecurity among student populations. As a measure of public health, then, the University must commit to compensating all student employees for the remainder of the semester.
- B. All *campus* employees shall continue to be paid as normal, regardless of whether they continue their work or have been laid off for the semester.
 - Once more, as a matter of public health, the University has a financial responsibility to ensure its employees do not experience food and/or housing insecurity in the midst of a pandemic.
- C. All employees who remain working on campus shall be assigned workloads that take into account their health, safety, and wellbeing during this pandemic. Employees shall have the right to refuse work if it threatens their health, safety, or wellbeing.
- D. All campus employees who will be working remotely shall receive information on any position description adjustments and remote work expectations as soon as possible or be given a timeline on when to expect the aforementioned information.
- E. Student businesses, which will not be functioning for the rest of the semester and therefore cannot make profit, must be subsidized by the university to ensure their long-term sustainability and individual employees' incomes.

V. Further Support:

- A. Students in need of financial assistance to afford their return to or travel back from campus in response to the pandemic and the University's transition to remote learning shall be granted aid to cover the expenses, regardless of where they may be returning to or from.
- B. Should the libraries not be regularly operational for the remainder of the semester, accommodations shall be made to allow student access to the libraries' archives, materials, equipment, and services not available remotely. This is critical for thesis, dissertation, and research work that is often time-sensitive.
- C. Accommodations shall be made to students in need of accessing the resources in the Assistive Technology Center at the W. E. B. DuBois Library to ensure all students are able to succeed given the campus response to the pandemic.
- D. Students shall be updated weekly by email regarding the status of campus operations. Students shall be kept in the know to a significantly higher degree than they have been. Even if decisions have yet to be made, there shall be regular,

comprehensive updates on everything linked to the University response to the coronavirus pandemic.

- E. The Center for Counseling and Psychological Health shall remain open and accessible at no cost for the remainder of the semester by phone for students given the impact this transition may have on students' mental health.
- F. University Health Services shall investigate the efficacy of offering Telehealth Medical Service options for those reliant on medical assistance from UHS who are unable to continue utilizing these services in-person.
- G. At whatever point an in-person Commencement for the Class of 2020 can be safely held, in accordance with CDC guidelines, it must be, and any financial support to facilitate the Ceremony shall be provided to students and their families.

Appeals to the Faculty Senate:

- I.** The Faculty Senate should urge professors to exercise leniency in grading and assessment, pursuant to the extreme shift in learning modality to remote learning, and the unprecedented circumstances surrounding COVID-19, keeping in mind student mental health during this shift.
- II.** All attendance requirements should be called off for every class due to differences in time zones and off-campus obligations.
- III.** All courses able to be made available to be taken as incompletes should be offered as such to ease the transition to remote learning.