Dear Faculty Members,

As was communicated to you earlier, the University has announced that all instruction in Summer 2020 semester will be online. This includes lecture sections, laboratory sections and the appropriate portions of clinical/field work.

Some of you have asked whether the remote teaching approaches that we adopted in the pandemic conditions of Spring 2020 are still applicable to summer teaching. For instance, many faculty transitioned their classes online by utilizing Zoom web conferencing to hold synchronous, live class sessions with their students. This is permitted for summer, however additional communication to your students will be needed so that they understand how your courses will be delivered. Since the summer semester has been announced to be fully online, students may expect to complete class work on their own schedule. This aligns with their understanding of a fully online course.

Thus, it will be important for faculty to communicate clearly with their students what their expectations are for class attendance and any other synchronous meetings. As an example - the Chemistry department has listed their summer General Chemistry lecture as follows in the Schedule of Classes: CH131.101 (31896) will be taught in an online/virtual format. Synchronous online activities may be scheduled during the listed class time.

We recommend that expectations for participating in synchronous sessions be communicated to students before the start of the course. These messages may be conveyed in the LMS course shell (in Sakai/Canvas) and through email on the first day of classes, so that students have the opportunity to change their schedule as necessary.

We also encourage you to consider including components in your class that permit students to participate asynchronously (e.g., flipped instruction using tools like Panopto videos, discussion forums, and quizzing as well as collaborative tools in Google Suite). The use of these tools can assist students in meeting learning objectives.

The ILC will be offering information sessions on online course design and appropriate tools throughout the summer. You can find resources at http://usailc.org/. Thank you very much for your willingness to adapt your teaching to the demands of the COVID crisis, and for your commitment to our students.

G. David Johnson and S. Raj Chaudhury