



March 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The University is presently in an emergency situation and we must all adapt to the current circumstances regarding COVID-19 and the effect it's having on the entire University setting, including the transition to the delivery of all courses through distance learning delivery methods. Our students are the main priority. We want to provide all levels of support and guidance to all students as they continue with the semester, and possibly into the future.

I appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work together to address this evolving state of COVID-19.

The UofR provided the following information on how faculty and sessional instructors can adapt their course syllabi due to the emergency situation:

- All course syllabi can be revised/changed/alterd in order to facilitate delivery and completion of academic programs. This includes changing assignments and/or eliminating assignments as well as changing coursework. All of this has been vetted through the University of Regina Legal Counsel.
- As you rework your remaining classes to deliver via distance, please keep in mind the above information that gives you professional latitude in how you revamp your syllabus to meet the demands of this unexpected and quickly changing situation. Because of social distancing and limited space usage on campus, I would encourage you to shift any assignments to an electronic format (word docs, videos, pictures, audio files, etc).
- Group projects may no longer be feasible unless they can be done via distance, either electronically or through web conferencing.
- If you have final exams scheduled, you will have to rethink those as well, perhaps changing the exams to a final assignment or take-home exam.
- UR Courses is another tool that you may be able to utilize during this period. Many of you may already be using UR Courses, while others may need to become familiar with or re-familiarize themselves with this digital teaching tool.



REGINA CAMPUS

atim kâ-mihkosit (Red Dog) Urban Reserve
1 First Nations Way
Regina, SK S4S 7K2
P: 306.790.5950

SASKATOON CAMPUS

Asimakaniseekan Askiy Urban Reserve
230 - 103B Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4
P: 306.931.1800

NORTHERN CAMPUS

1301 Central Avenue
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4W1
P: 306.765.3333



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www.fnuniv.ca
toll free 1.800.267.6303
info@fnuniv.ca

Jen Balderston is scheduling multiple noon-hour sessions to cover top concerns and best practices for teaching online. Sessions will begin on Tuesday, March 17th through to Thursday, March 19th, 2020.

We will be sending out more information as we work through these rapidly changing circumstances.

Again, thank you very much for your professionalism and support for our students as we work through this transition.

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Dr. Bob Kayseas
Interim President & Vice President Academic
First Nations University of Canada

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