Academic Continuity Planning for COVID-19

Presentation to Academic Leadership, 3-10-2020
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Academic Preparedness Team

Representation from
• Academic Affairs
• CETL
• UITS
• Classroom Technology
• Registrar’s Office
• Branch Campuses
Centers for Disease Control Guidance

- Advises colleges and universities to plan for the potential impact of COVID-19 on instruction
  - Including moving courses online
- The Academic Preparedness team has developed a plan for this
- Situation is rapidly changing; plan will be updated as needed
Flexibility on Student Absences

• Per CDC, if a student is ill with flu-like symptoms, they should not come to the university
• Modify class attendance policies
• No medical excuse notes: Healthcare systems will likely become overburdened were an outbreak to occur and would not be able to provide them
• Faculty members are encouraged to discuss flexible response strategies to student absences with their department chairs, and to develop backup plans if they themselves should become ill
Social Distancing

- Social distancing measures are taken to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases.
- Social distancing measures include limiting large groups of people coming together, closing buildings and canceling events.
- All universities are planning for this, some are implementing
  - University of Washington
  - Stanford
  - Princeton
Decision to Implement at UWM

• Milwaukee Health Department can direct area K-16 to stop face-to-face instruction
• Campus Health Officer Dr. Julie Bonner is the liaison with the Health Department
• Notifications to Faculty, Staff, and Students
  • Following consultation with the Crisis Management Team, the Chancellor will notify faculty, staff, and students if the campus will be closed for face-to-face classes as a social distancing measure
Campus Options for Moving Courses Online

• Instructors should begin planning now, because if UWM suspends face-to-face instruction, many courses will need to move online.

• CETL has prepared a Quick Start Guide on Academic Preparedness for Teaching and Learning that can help instructors adapt face-to-face courses to a fully online mode of delivery.
Quick Start Guide on Academic Preparedness for Teaching and Learning
Other Considerations

• Course cancellations
• Research/graduate education
• Branch campuses
• Accessibility
• Financial Aid
• Internships & practica
Other Considerations

- Final exams
- Commencement
- International students
- Student who lack internet access
Microsoft Teams

• Essential resource for academic departments; administrative work
• Useful resources in Academic Continuity plan Appendix
Begin Planning Work Now

- Create Teams site for your academic unit; get ready to activate COOP plans
- Discuss Quick Start Guide with faculty to move courses online
- Academic Preparedness team to reach out to departments to
  - Discuss campus-based synchronous course options
  - Identify courses that are not adaptable to online format
    - Options for short courses if needed
  - Planning for disruptions to internship/practica
  - Support planning & mobilization
  - Address research issues
Questions?