



# THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES DURING COVID-19

## Key Messages for Frontline Fundraisers

At the UW, the values of courage, kindness, creativity, and innovation have seen us through good times and bad — times of triumph and times of fear and uncertainty. And these values will help us overcome together the challenges we face today in the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming days and months, our donors will likely have questions, concerns, and a desire to help the UW community as it works to meet this moment and those to come. This document contains key messages to support your conversations with donors. It will be updated as the situation evolves.

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### How is the UW and CAS responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- College and University leadership are working together closely to prioritize the health and safety of our campus community, coordinating with state and local health departments, and heeding their guidance and recommendations amidst this evolving situation.
- The College remains committed to carrying out its research and teaching missions and will do so through restricted operations in spring quarter.
- In an effort to “flatten the curve” through measures like social distancing that slow the outbreak of COVID-19, all University learning will be conducted remotely in the spring. This decision reflects the University’s commitment to protecting the health of our students, faculty, and staff.
- And while this move to remote instruction presents challenges, our phenomenal faculty and students are responding with the creativity and resilience that are core to the UW.
- As difficult as this situation has been, we are inspired by the strength and resilience of the people across our University community who have been working tirelessly, partnering with health authorities and government officials to combat this public health crisis and its countless ripple effects. We are humbled in this regard to be part of an institution that is on the frontlines in so many ways — from our dedicated health-care professionals who are caring for patients and helping to provide more widespread testing, to our researchers and faculty who are working to find a vaccine, mapping the spread of disease, and countering the surge of coronavirus misinformation amidst public uncertainty and fear.

### How will the student learning experience change during this time?

- As faculty work quickly and creatively to reimagine their coursework for a remote learning and teaching environment, the College is committed to making this transition as smooth as



possible. Dean Stacey, divisional deans, and chairs are in regular communications to ensure that students and faculty are aware of the institutional resources available at this time, including technology, instructional support, and food and financial support.

- There are numerous resources already in place for students to access technology and learn how to use it. The Student Technology Loan Program allows students to borrow laptops, tablets and other equipment for free. And the Center for Teaching and Learning has numerous resources for students and faculty adjusting to a digital environment.
- During spring quarter, the first week will be viewed as a transitional period with no graded work, as students and faculty adjust to online instruction. College and departmental leadership are focused on maximizing student success during this transition, and identifying innovative ways to meet student needs. Deans and chairs are encouraging flexibility and compassion during this time, as we are all adjusting to these changes.
- The College is also committed to helping our graduating seniors meet their academic goals. In cases where a student may require a spring quarter course for June graduation that had to be rescheduled, departments will be urged to either waive certain requirements or identify substitute courses that satisfy major requirements.
- We are confident that as our students adjust to learning in a remote environment, they are still receiving a world-class education from world-class faculty who are deeply committed to student success.

## What is the College doing to support prospective and newly admitted students?

- In lieu of an in-person Admitted Student Preview Day this spring, the College is working to bring campus to our community. Through prerecorded divisional sessions, print materials, divisional and College promotional videos, and dedicated landing pages for prospective students, our faculty and staff are partnering with haste and creativity to bring the opportunities in Arts & Sciences to life for our hopeful Huskies.

## How will research in the College be impacted during this time?

- The UW is doing everything possible to ensure research continuity, while also protecting the health and safety of our students, postdocs, faculty, and staff by heeding public health advisories and state mandates.
- Every CAS researcher who can work remotely must stay home for the next two weeks. For critical in-person research functions, the Office of Research has provided guidance on health and safety protocols that must be upheld in order for work to proceed.
- These guidelines ensure health and safety of all research personnel while driving forward the critical research that will contribute to solutions — today and in the future.
- As this unprecedented situation unfolds, research in the College is absolutely vital in



addressing some of the known and unknown challenges. Our faculty are some of the best in their fields — experts and world leaders in the economy, politics, environmental science, the arts, history, geography, and so much more. Our community will be looking to them to measure, understand and heal from the rippling impacts of this pandemic in the days and months to come.

## How will faculty/staff be impacted during this time?

- Faculty have undertaken a herculean effort this winter in reimagining their coursework for remote instruction. Their dedication to the educational best interests of our students has never been in doubt, but it has never been more clearly on display or more inspiring than it is right now. College and University leadership are keenly aware of the added strain on our faculty to uphold teaching and research excellence in this time of difficulty.
- Though our faculty are wonderfully flexible and skilled educators, we know that the move to a remote format poses particular challenges for those in the arts and lab-based sciences. College leadership is looking for ways to support faculty in those disciplines. While some courses will need to be altered or rescheduled, the College is looking to avoid cancellation anywhere possible.
- The UW is pursuing new ways to support faculty including special exceptions on tenure policy. As a result of the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19, the University of Washington is offering automatic approval for all faculty who request a waiver for the 2019-20 academic year to automatically extend their promotion and/or tenure clock by one year.
- This will give our faculty working toward tenure some peace of mind that even as they shift their focus to adjust their coursework and teaching approach, their career and progress to achieving tenure will not suffer.

## How is the College approaching event programming during spring quarter?

- In light of public health advisories and state mandates on social distancing, the College is postponing all events in spring or moving them into a digital format that our audiences can enjoy from afar.
- We know that our friends and supporters love coming to campus — for lectures, to visit the Burke, for performances at Meany, especially in spring to see the cherry blossoms. But we care too much about the health and well being of our community to continue welcoming our friends to campus given the circumstances.
- We are working quickly and creatively to find ways to stay connected with all of you in this time. I look forward to letting you know about the next virtual faculty panel or live streaming musical performance. And as we move past this time together, I await a time when we can safely enjoy this beautiful campus again.



## How does this pandemic impact University and College priorities and initiatives?

- Now more than ever, it's time for us join efforts to heal and sustain our community. This will require a collective focus on areas of greatest need for our students and those on the frontlines of fighting this virus.
- If you want to help in this time, the College is encouraging our generous friends to consider supporting critical funds that will make a direct and timely impact on our faculty and students, our healthcare workers, and our capacity to fight this virus. The University is focusing on the following funds at this time:
  - **UW Medicine COVID-19 Response Fund:** to support UW Medicine's extensive efforts, including increasing coronavirus testing, expanding research for vaccines, caring for our most vulnerable patients, and providing equipment and resources to protect our health-care providers.
  - **UW COVID-19 Student Emergency Support Funds:** to fund emergency resources that will provide essential help to students whose lives have been impacted by this pandemic.
  - **Student Epidemic Action Leaders (SEAL) Team Support Fund:** to support training and deployment of graduate students in field epidemiology who can provide critical COVID-19 assistance to state and local health departments.
  - **Arts & Sciences Excellence Fund:** provides flexible and much-needed funding to support the teaching mission of the College of Arts and Sciences as faculty adapt their courses and deliver programs to students remotely. The fund also supports new initiatives and innovative programs proposed by faculty, staff and students.
- As we prioritize our students, our community, and those on the frontlines of responding to this pandemic, we are looking closely at current College funds with available balances that can be allocated to areas of greatest need. College leadership is committed to utilizing our resources effectively and responsively during this time and going forward.
- You may have recently received mail promoting Husky Giving Day 2020. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will no longer be hosting this day of celebration on April 2, 2020. At the same time, we recognize the burden this crisis may place on many of our students and that our community is actively looking for ways to help. In response, UW is swiftly making plans to provide emergency support when and where it is needed. And we will keep you posted on this effort as it unfolds.



## How is the UW/CAS working to ensure financial stability during this time?

- We understand any concerns over how market fluctuations may impact endowed funds in the College. But these fluctuations have actually been accounted for in how distributions are calculated. The annual distribution amount is calculated as a percentage of average market value of the CEF over a rolling five-year window. Calculating distributions based on a five-year rolling average of the market value helps to even out fluctuations in the market, providing consistent support to our programs, departments, and centers.
- Endowments with more than five years of market growth are particularly well-positioned to weather these fluctuations, since they have achieved five or more years of growth.
- Dean Stacey has allocated contingency funds to support emerging needs in departments as faculty work quickly to adjust to remote instruction. He is working closely with divisional deans to identify and allocate meaningful funding to departments in this time.
- To ensure that the College is financially stable as we weather these uncertain times for our students, faculty, staff and departments, we are focused on maintaining an excellent educational experience for our current students and those students who will join us in the fall. We are confident that as our students adjust to learning in a remote environment, they are still receiving a world-class education from world-class faculty who are deeply committed to student success.

### Fundraiser Resources:

- [CAS coronavirus response and resources for faculty and chairs](#)
- [CAS coronavirus operational update: acknowledgements, scholarships & fellowships, and endowments](#)
- [UW's 'Together We Will' page](#)
- [UW's coronavirus FAQ page](#)

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### CONTACT INFO

If you have questions about how the College's operations are evolving in this time, please contact:

**Russell Yost**, Senior Director of Marketing Communications, **503.428.4913** / [ryost@uw.edu](mailto:ryost@uw.edu), or

**Luke Hawkins**, Associate Director for Advancement Communications, **805.619.8035** / [ldhawk@uw.edu](mailto:ldhawk@uw.edu)