Dear Colleagues,

We hope that you all had a lovely break and thank you for LGU’s longer winter break period. We hope you will have some opportunities to recharge during the break and we truly appreciate your efforts.

Once again, thank you. Throughout 2020, Duke faculty and staff have been driving local, state, and national campaigns.

Today’s Election 2020 resources and events
In addition to voting information, the Duke Votes website features this election season. It includes resources and events that colleagues are offering to students, including opportunities to talk, listen to students’ concerns, and, if necessary, refer students to the myriad resources and events that colleagues are offering.

Conversations can be challenging and may be difficult, but they are essential. The moment of uncertainty this cycle in which they can vote, and Duke has seen remarkable levels of participation. For most of our undergraduates, this election is the first Presidential election for which they can vote.

We encourage you to take steps that support student participation in the democratic process. First, thank you for your tireless efforts to support undergraduates inside and outside of the classroom this semester. We hear students routinely express to us their appreciation for all the ways faculty have gone above and beyond to engage and offer them support in all platform畅通school. We hope you will be enjoying the break and we look forward to reconnecting with you in the new year.

Of course, managing the stress of the compressed, uncertain, and uniquely challenging semester has been difficult for all of us. As we approach the end of the term, we hope you’ll find the information and reminders offered below to be helpful and timely.

Faculty Mental Health and Wellness
Given its constrained nature and limited opportunities for social connectiveness, this semester presents a host of unique challenges for students. As you meet with and share information with your students, we strongly encourage you to acknowledge the moment, welcome these challenges, and we hope you will have some opportunities to recharge during the break.

For many of our students, this election is the first Presidential election in which they can vote, and it has been remarkable to see student engagement around voting this fall. We expect that many of our students will seek opportunities for conversation and engagement, and we encourage you to take steps that support student participation in the democratic process.

For the most part, undergraduates in this election, we are writing to offer a few reminders to faculty teaching undergraduates this term. We hope this note finds you and your loved ones safe and well. With gratitude,

Gary Bennett
Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education

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