Dear Colleagues,

We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well through the end of the semester approaching, as we are writing to offer a few timely reminders and resources that may be of assistance.

First, thank you for your tireless efforts to support undergraduate inside and outside of the classroom this semester. We hear from students that you have gone above and beyond to engage and offer support in all of your classes. These efforts come as you juggle many additional responsibilities outside of your teaching, and we thank you for your diligence.

If you are in need of support for that student with whatever help they may need, from mental health issues to just a listening ear, DukeReach offers convenient and anonymous services. Students can sign up at the website above using the service key DUKE2020. Options include: TalkNow (24/7, talk about anything) and Scheduled Counseling.

Other resources include:
- Blue Devils Care is a confidential platform. We know this comes as you juggle many additional responsibilities.
- Personal Assistance Service (PAS) can provide you with additional resources to help connect students with whatever help they may need.

As a reminder, classes are scheduled to take place in person on November 17th. President Price's recent message noted that faculty have the flexibility to make accommodations if circumstances require it during the upcoming weeks. We encourage you to take steps that support student participation in the classroom.

For most undergraduate electives, the election is the first Presidential cycle in which you may vote, and this has been remarkable moment of student engagement around voting. In fact, we expect that many of our students feel pressure to achieve unprecedented success even in this moment of uncertainty. We encourage you to emphasize keeping things in perspective. You can point them to COVID-related wellness strategies on the student mental health and wellness web page, resources for faculty, and referrals to help resolve a range of personal, work, and family challenges.

We refer you to the Office of Faculty Advancement resource page including information for students, faculty and staff, as well as useful background and context to understand the 2020 election and its impact. In addition to voting information, the Duke Votes website features this election season.

As you continue to interact with your students, please remind them of these resources and to take care of themselves. Many students are in this together and are here to partner with you to help make sure our students feel pressure to achieve unprecedented success even in this moment of uncertainty.

Second, given the condensed nature of this election season, we expect that many of our students will seek opportunities for conversation and engagement around the election results (or lack thereof). If you are comfortable, we recommend that you acknowledge the moment, welcome these conversations, listen to students' concerns, and, if necessary, refer them to the myriad resources and events that colleagues are offering.

This election season represents a host of unique challenges for students, faculty, and staff alike, and we hope you will have some opportunities to recharge during the longer winter break period. Of course, managing the stress of the compressed, uncertain, and uniquely challenging semester has been difficult for all. As we approach the end of the term, we hope you will find the information and reminders offered below to be helpful and timely.

Faculty Mental Health and Wellness

In addition to voting information, the Duke Votes website features this election season.

As always, if you are concerned about a specific student, for any reason, please contact DUKE2020. We provide you with additional resources to help connect students with whatever help they may need. From mental health resources to academic support. Please don't feel any worry alone - we are in this together, and we are here to help you link them to the resources that they need.

2020 Election

While election day is on November 3rd, the nature of the moment recommends that we take a longer view than is customary on the timeframe of this election season. There is a distinct possibility that we will not know election results on November 4th. This may create additional uncertainty and stress on campus. We urge you to consider ways to support yourselves and your students in the upcoming weeks.

For your class syllabi language, consider the following suggestions for instruction on the electoral process and its impact on democracy.

As you approach the end of the semester, we are writing to offer a few timely reminders to faculty teaching undergraduates this term.

For your class syllabi language, consider the following suggestions for instruction on the electoral process and its impact on democracy.

Given its condensed nature and limited opportunities for social connectedness, this semester presents a host of unique challenges for students, faculty, and staff alike. We hope you will have a chance to share any feedback you have given above and beyond to engage and offer support in all of your classes. These efforts come as you juggle many additional responsibilities outside of your teaching, and we thank you for your diligence.

Dealing with the uncertainty and stress around the election may be taxing for all involved. As such, we recommend that you consider the following:

- Affirm the democratic process. There will be no clear winner until after the November 3rd election day. This is normal and expected.
- Remind your class that while there may be some uncertainty around the election results, your voice matters. Your vote matters. Your vote will matter. Your voice will matter.
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- Encourage your students to stay engaged in the democratic process.
- Provide resources for students, faculty, and staff.
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