Dear Colleagues,

We hope that you and your loved ones are well and that the end-of-the-semester approaching, we are writing to offer a few timely reminders.

First, thank you for your tireless efforts to support undergraduates inside and outside of the classroom this semester. We hear students repeat again and again that they are amazed by the sacrifices you have made to ensure that students have been able to engage with one another and engage in their studies in full. As we move forward, we continue to ask you to support students outside of the classroom as well.

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 will 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 connections, this semester presents a host of unique challenges for students. With this in mind, we would like to draw your attention to the resources available to support academic success and mental health.

We remind you that you can sign up at DukeReach.duke.edu to connect with a licensed counselor. There are two options: TalkNow (24/7, talk about anything) and Scheduled Counseling. Students can sign up at the website above using the service key DukeReach.

We encourage you to refer students to DukeReach and the Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for additional resources to help connect students with whatever help they may need, from mental health support to academic support. Please don't ever worry alone — we are in this together, and we can help you connect students with the support that they need.

2020 Election

While election day occurred on November 3rd, the黏土 elastic nature of this moment requires that we take a longer view to determine the outcomes and the timeframe of this election season. There is a distinct possibility that we will not have a clear winner until December 14th. This may create additional uncertainty and stress on campus. We urge you to consider ways to soothe this uncertainty and stress.

First, vote if you are able. The DukeVotes website includes information for students, faculty, and staff, as well as voting options for the electorate. If you are able to cast a ballot, please do so. Remember to vote with integrity and evaluate the information to make the best possible decision.

In addition to voting information, the DukeVotes website features a series of videos and articles on the democratic process that you can share with your students. Please don't forget that any voter eligible to vote in Durham County can vote at the Duke early voting site at the Karsh Alumni Center through Friday, November 20.

We hope this note finds you and your loved ones safe and well. With gratitude for all that you continue to do.

First and foremost, we encourage you to take time to reflect on the issues that are important to you both inside and outside of the classroom this semester. We hear students repeat again and again that they are amazed by the sacrifices you have made to ensure that students have access to support your intellectual, social, and emotional wellbeing. We pray you will continue to find the time and energy to engage in these conversations, listen to student concerns, and, if necessary, redirect the energy and events that you are offering to the electoral process.

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