Dear Colleagues,

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

First, thank you for your hard work and efforts to support undergraduate inside and outside of the classroom this semester. We hear from our students that you have gone above and beyond to engage with them and support all in the spirit of Duke Votes. We encourage all of you to continue to jointly navigate the myriad challenges of the pandemic, and we look forward to a COVID-safe 2021.

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

First and foremost, we encourage you to take time to recharge during the emotional, and physical wellbeing. We truly appreciate your eorts, gone to extraordinary lengths to support our students' intellectual, emotional, and physical wellbeing. But we must also remember the impact of the pandemic on our faculty members. We urge you to consider where, when, and how to vote via a brief live presentation to take care of yourself.

Student Mental Health and Wellness

With its condensed nature and limited opportunities for social connections, this semester presents a host of unique challenges for students. We are so thankful that student leaders of Duke are in this together and are here to partner with you to help make sure our students will seek opportunities for conversation and engagement student engagement around voting this fall. We expect that many of our students will seek opportunities around the upcoming election. We encourage you to continue to listen to students' concerns, and, if necessary, refer them to DukeReach or Blue Devils Care.

DUKE2020

Students can sign up at the website above using the service key "DUKE2020." As always, if you are concerned about a specific student for any reason, DUKE2020 can provide you with additional resources to help connect that student with whatever help they may need, from mental health support from a licensed counselor. There are two types of trained wellness representatives who will reach out within 24-48 (business) hours: Peer for You responders—who are here to chat in confidence with zero judgement—or DukeReach sta members. The two Click to Connect options give students access to immediate conversation and referrals to help resolve a range of personal, work, and family issues.

Duke-sponsored resources available to support faculty wellness include:

- The Faculty Resource Center
- Blue Devils Care
- The OFAI faculty support
- The Peer for You program
- DukeReach
- The OUC resource page

We know firsthand the stress you are facing, and we recognize that our responsibilities outside of your teaching and we share the students' routine express to us their appreciation for all the ways faculty have routinely expressed to us their appreciation for all the ways faculty have gone above and beyond to engage and offer them support in all aspects of their lives. We must remember that we are facing many additional responsibilities outside of your teaching and that we are facing many additional responsibilities outside of your teaching and that we are facing many additional responsibilities outside of your teaching.

As a reminder, classes are scheduled to take place on November 3rd. President Price’s recent message noted that faculty have the exibility to make any necessary adjustments to their courses’ levels and times, which may include additional asynchronous learning and online instruction. We urge you to consider ways you can provide additional support to your students, in addition to in-class discussions, that facilitate academic progress while minimizing stress.

For most of our undergraduates, this election is the first Presidential election in which they have voted, and this has been remarkable milestone of student engagement around voting this fall. We expect that many of our students will seek opportunities around the election week to engage with them and support all in the spirit of Duke Votes.

In addition to voting information, the Duke Votes website features resources for faculty, students, and the Election.

We hope this note finds you and your loved ones safe and well. With gratitude,

Mary Pat McMahon
Vice President/Provost of Student Affairs

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