Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for all you and your loved ones are doing. With the end of the semester approaching, we are writing to offer a few timely reminders and resources that may be helpful for you and our students.

First, thank you for your continued efforts to support undergraduate inside and outside of the classroom this semester. We hear visitors consistently express to us their appreciation for all the ways faculty have gone above and beyond to engage and offer their support in all platforms. We also know that you are facing many additional responsibilities outside of your teaching and we thank the students’ graduate assistants for all their hard work.

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 that the information and reminders offered below will be helpful and timely.

Faculty Health and Wellness

In addition to voting information, the Duke Votes website features resources to academic support. Please don’t ever worry alone — we are in this together and are here to partner with you to help make sure our students have the support that they need.

Duke-sponsored resources available to support faculty wellness include:

- DukeReach: A convenient way for Duke students to receive no-cost 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 real-time about anything, and scheduled counseling, which is conducted with a licensed professional and will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

- Duke-sponsored resources available to support faculty wellness include:

- Two-Click to Connect: A brief live presentation to DukeReach’s two-click platform. The presentation shares our colleagues’ takes on the issues of the 2020 election, and includes a summary of the 2016 election. You can share directly with your students.

As a reminder, courses are scheduled to take place on November 30th. President Price’s recent message noted that faculty have the flexibility to make alternate arrangements regarding coursework and scheduling, if you are concerned about a specific student for any reason, please don’t ever worry alone — we are in this together and are here to partner with you to help make sure our students have the support that they need.

2020 Election

While election day is on November 3rd, the nature of the moment will allow us to take some time to not only reflect on the importance of this election, but to also remind them of these resources and to take care of themselves. Many faculty and staff are concerned about the potential emotional and physical wellbeing of our students. We urge you to consider the myriad resources and events that colleagues are offering around the election results (or lack thereof). If you are comfortable, we encourage you to make alternate arrangements regarding coursework and scheduling.

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