

Office of the Dean

From: "Reid,Michael B" <michael.reid@ufl.edu>
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:17 PM
To: ". HHP - Faculty & Staff" <hhpfacultyandstaff@hhp.ufl.edu>
Subject: HHP & COVID-19 update

"If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter." – Blaise Pascal

Dear Colleagues,

I am grateful for your cooperation today. The Florida Gym was largely abandoned with only a few people stopping by to complete essential tasks. I encountered two grad students still at the bench and encouraged each to speak with his or her advisor about working from home. An undergrad, holed up in a lecture hall to take her MCAT online, promised to head home afterward. But these were exceptions to the rule. Mostly, the college had empty hallways and darkened offices as each of you stayed home to keep yourselves and your families safe while slowing this pandemic.

Thank you.

Yesterday we read of an HHP student who tested positive for COVID-19. Today we learned that individual did not have direct contact with people on campus and does not pose a direct risk to campus health and safety. For that we can be grateful.

However, the number of COVID-19 positive individuals at UF continues to increase. Eleven yesterday, fourteen today. As community transmission becomes more likely, the University is preparing to close campus. I expect it to be announced in the next few days. All of your hard work to move our teaching online and our research work to alternative locations will pay off handsomely. We are well positioned to close our college when the call comes while maintaining our impact on students and scholarship.

Please know that your department chairs and my colleagues in central administration have worked tirelessly to support your efforts and keep the HHP community safe. All of us are grateful for your ongoing efforts during this crisis and your amazing good spirits. You are truly inspiring.

Stay home. Stay safe. And go Gators!

Mike

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