

**From:** [Cfaes-all](#) on behalf of [Kress, Cathann A. via Cfaes-all](#)  
**To:** [cfaes-all@lists.service.ohio-state.edu](mailto:cfaes-all@lists.service.ohio-state.edu)  
**Subject:** [cfaes-all] Dean's Update  
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**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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[ATT00001.txt](#)

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CFAES Colleagues:

Since classes resumed March 23, Ohio State students, faculty and staff have held more than 90,800 Zoom meetings and nearly 9,900 Skype conference calls. These are impressive totals that speak to the commitment of our entire community to support one another. They also speak to our productivity. I know I've talked about how our productivity will look different several times, but over the weekend I found an article from The Chronicle of Higher Education that also spoke to this entitled "Why You Should Ignore All That Coronavirus-Inspired Productivity Pressure" (<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Why-You-Should-Ignore-All-That/248366>). As Aisha S. Ahmad says in the article "Take what you need and leave the rest."

Be well.

Dean Cathann Kress

**Today's Updates include:**

- **Events**
- **Research Exemptions**
- **CFAES Knowledge Exchange**
- **Academic Calendar**
- **Assessments and Evaluation**
- **Ask an Expert: Financial Assistance**
- **Zoom Information**

**Events**

The Provost has extended the date for cancellations of all university events to **Monday, July 6**. This is consistent with the approach to a [virtual summer term](#), announced last week. Any university event -no matter where it's location-- scheduled between now and July 6 will be canceled, and no new university events will be scheduled until that time.

**Exemption for CFAES Research and Extension Activities in Support of Mission Critical Areas**

The first round of decisions on the requests for research/extension exemptions to the stay at home order have been made. The last of the applicants will be notified very soon. The requests were reviewed by a committee consisting of Gary Pierzynski, Graham Cochran, Anne Dorrance, Ken Scaife, and Jackie Wilkins. The number of active projects needs to be kept to a minimum as we clearly cannot return to business as usual. Thus, the decision on any projects that the committee felt could be delayed was deferred for now. The committee will meet every Friday to consider new requests and to reconsider any previously submitted requests for which a final decision has not been made. The application process is open and will continue to accept requests as long as necessary.

As a reminder, we have been granted permission to allow a very limited amount of research and extension activities above the previous restriction holding us to only critical activities. Mission critical is defined as work that is either focused on COVID-19 OR essential for the immediate benefit of maintaining the food supply chain, or protection of critical natural resources such as water. Further details and the application process can be found at: <https://grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/resources/covid-19-guidance>. Please note that any or all approvals may be rescinded if relevant health and safety precautions are not utilized, or additional restrictions are put into place by the State of Ohio, The Ohio State University (OSU), or the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

### **CFAES Knowledge Exchange**

The CFAES Knowledge Exchange, Ohio State University Extension and CFAES Research communities are pleased to launch the COVID-19 Hub; a place to share science-backed COVID-19 information, education, and resources with the public. [kx.osu.edu/covid-19](http://kx.osu.edu/covid-19).

### **Academic Decisions Calendar**

A new calendar of upcoming dates and deadlines has been added to the OAA [Academic Decisions page](#). Topics include adjustments to the academic calendar; faculty deadlines for tenure-clock extensions or TSP completion; timelines for restrictions on events and travel; and deadlines for students on topics such as pass/no pass requests. Additional CFAES dates around research include:

- March 18 – Office of Research restriction to “critical” research only.
- March 26 – CFAES received approval from Office of Research to allow limited agricultural exemptions under the stay at home order.
- March 30 – CFAES email announcing a process for obtaining approval for limited agricultural exemptions went out.
- April 7 - CFAES first round of limited agricultural exemption approvals released.

### **How Are You Teaching?**

UITL has opened a [webform](#) for you to share information about how you’re teaching during this time of remote instruction. We know you’re busy with the important work of supporting student learning, but if you would like to share with others what you are discovering along the way, UITL is curating and sharing innovative solutions, great ideas, methods for engagement, and how you stay connected to students and to one another.

### **Assessing Student Learning**

As noted in the provost's email to faculty yesterday, there are resources available to help faculty prepare major assignments and assessments in a manner that recognizes the challenges faced by students in this COVID-disrupted semester.

The key is to structure exams and assignments to be accessible and achievable for students who are now residing in different places and time zones, working with imperfect technology and internet access, and dealing with other challenges. Resources include:

- **Keep Teaching:** [Assessments Overview](#), [recorded Alternatives to Exams and Finals Workshop](#) and [get help](#)
- **University Institute for Teaching and Learning:** [Communities of practice](#) (each will address evaluation of student learning from a specific lens), [UITL Series on Teaching Remotely](#) and [consultations](#).

### **Student Evaluations of Instruction**

Student Evaluations of Instruction (SEIs) will be conducted in their usual manner this semester so that our faculty, graduate students, and staff benefit from feedback about their teaching. In recognition that this term was disrupted by COVID, students and faculty will be provided with statements acknowledging these circumstances. More information is posted at [the OAA website](#).

### **OSU Extension: “Ask an Expert” for Financial Assistance**

OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Healthy Finances professionals are sensitive to the economic challenges families and their communities are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some, the loss of jobs has greatly affected families and their communities. For others, it is declining health along with inadequate health insurance coverage that puts their economic well-being and quality of life at risk. Whatever your situation, we are here to help.

Our county-based Family and Consumer Sciences Extension financial educators are offering FREE financial education to assist families in improving both present and future economic well-being. Submit your anonymous question and a professional will respond via email within 5 business days. <https://fcs.osu.edu/programs/healthy-finances-0/financial-assistance>

### **Zoom Adoption & Additional Scrutiny**

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Zoom adoption across the world has significantly increased for a variety of functions; classroom use, collaboration, and overall delivery of online content. As one might expect, a company and technology on this upward trajectory has recently received increased scrutiny through social and national media channels regarding their security and data collection practices. Zoom has responded to several of these items through their website: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2020/04/01/a-message-to-our-users/>

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