



April 28, 2020

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

We hope this email finds you well and that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

**First, we thank you.** In March, the Pace Community had less than two weeks to prepare for a transition to remote teaching and learning. We were all called upon to react quickly to changing public health information and circumstances, while maintaining our focus on the academic mission of *Opportunitas*. We are grateful for your flexibility and dedication as you adapted your courses and other activities to our current remote status. To make this semester work, there were many challenges to overcome.

**Second, we want to engage you in our planning for the coming fall semester.** This email contains a great deal of information. Please review it carefully.

**Our hope and intention is to reopen our campuses for in-person learning.** Pace's foundation and success rests in our face-to-face interaction with our students. However, **the timing and nature of our fall operations will be dictated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State government authorities, as well as the COVID-19 virus.**

**Many of you are already hard at work developing contingency plans that prepare us for three different reopening scenarios.** These scenarios anticipate that we will be ready by Fall 2020 to use either blended in-person and remote learning, and flexible course delivery modules such as condensed or additional terms. **A summary of the three reopening scenarios is attached to this message.**

**Developing our reopening plans requires everyone's active and rapid participation.** Please get involved! To date, we've sought input on the three reopening scenarios from Deans, Associate Deans, Department Chairs and Program Directors. We also held a Faculty Town Call, which introduced the planning scenarios. Another Town Call will be held tomorrow. You can help by talking to your department chairs, associate deans, or deans to ensure that your voice is heard. All members of our academic community must have a thoughtful plan on how they will deliver their courses, regardless of which reopening scenario is ultimately chosen.

**Our timeline is as follows:**

- Initial scenario development ends April 30, 2020.
- Scenario development, drafting of recommendations and vetting with campus community ends May 8, 2020.
- Recommendations are shared with the President by May 13, 2020.
- We anticipate announcing the Fall 2020 academic plans by the end of May. We will coordinate the implementation of possible scenarios with Faculty Council Executive Committees, Deans, Associate Deans, and Chairs.
- A decision on which plan to implement will be determined once New York's Governor has shared plans for lifting his PAUSE executive order.

**We want to reemphasize that Pace is examining how to deliver its academic mission in a safe and healthy environment.** All our plans for reopening our campuses center around the health and safety of everyone in the Pace Community. Once the CDC and New York State announce guidelines about when and how to open our campuses, we will implement public safety modifications to ensure that our community continues to thrive in a safe environment.

**Because our summer courses are now online, and operations for the fall remain uncertain, we need to be prepared to teach with technology in new and flexible ways.** Pace Online, Academic Technologies and the Faculty Center are developing ways to support everyone's ability to provide high-quality online and blended learning experiences. **Our first priority is supporting faculty who are teaching this summer.** We will send an email tomorrow to these faculty with information about trainings and registration information. **If you are experienced in online or hybrid teaching and would like to serve as a peer mentor, please email the Faculty Center at [facultycenter@pace.edu](mailto:facultycenter@pace.edu).**

**Two closing items:**

- **This has been a difficult semester and we need an opportunity to come together and celebrate our successes.** Please mark your calendars for a **Faculty Recognition Ceremony** to be held next Thursday, May 7, from 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. An invitation with the Zoom meeting information will be sent shortly.
- As a reminder to yesterday's communication, **Pace University has extended the deadline for two important student grading options for the Spring semester—[withdrawal from courses](#) and [pass/fail grading](#).** Final grades should be submitted through the applicable system within **five (5) business days after the final examination.** Grades for graduating students are due **within forty-eight (48) hours.**

We recognize this is an anxious time for all of us, and we understand the concerns and impact this pandemic has had on our community, in addition to the significant financial pressures for our institution. We will get through this together. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of service to you. Please also remember that you can reach out to Human Resources at [employeerelations@pace.edu](mailto:employeerelations@pace.edu).

In the meantime, **please regularly check and read your emails as this is the method we use to share breaking information.** Remember to also continue monitoring our [COVID-19 website](#) for news and information and for an [archive of our communications](#) to students, staff, and faculty.

Please take care and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Vanya Quiñones, PhD  
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