

URI Remote Teaching & Learning Task Force

UPDATE 3/16/2020

Introduction: We know that you will have many questions as we transition to remote instruction over the coming week. The Remote Teaching and Learning Task Force was formed to support the URI teaching community and serve as a liaison to faculty from various disciplines, departments, and colleges. The Task Force is comprised of faculty and key knowledgeable staff representing a cross-section of disciplines, remote teaching skill levels, and pedagogical experiences in a broad array of courses learning goals and approaches.

Task Force Members

Anne Veeger, Vice Provost, (Chair)

Sue Adams, HDF

Jennifer Burgess, Director, AEC

Danielle Dennis, Director, School of Education

Linda Forrester, Lab Manager, BIO

Peggy Frazier, Music

Diane Goldsmith, Director, ATL

Mike Honhart, History, Fac Sen T & I Comm.

Marc Hutchison, Political Science

Amanda Izenstark, University Libraries

Heather Johnson, Writing & Rhetoric

Leonard Kahn, Physics

Bing Lin, Business

Diane Martins, Nursing

Kelly Orr, Pharmacy

Michelle Rogers-Estable, Director, IT T & L

Art Spivack, Oceanography

Jay Walsh, Executive Director AAUP

Thank you to the task force members who are taking time out of their very busy schedules to contribute to this effort.

Communication Strategy

Email Updates: We will send out updates in digest form over the coming days to share information as efficiently as possible. We will include news updates, resources, and answers to frequently asked questions (see <https://web.uri.edu/atl/remote-teaching-and-learning-faqs/> for additional FAQs).

Have a question or a suggestion?:

Visit our question/suggestion form, available on both the ATL web page (<https://web.uri.edu/atl/>) and the Provost's home page (<https://web.uri.edu/provost/>).

NEWS

Training available to support your transition to remote learning:

<https://web.uri.edu/atl/covid-19-workshop-calendar/>

Sign up for a "Getting Started" workshop or other workshops on Brightspace, Sakai, WebEx, Google Apps, etc

New ITS support page:

ITS has created a web page to connect faculty quickly to the most common ITS services - <https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/>

FREE access to Cengage Unlimited for the rest of the semester
<https://www.cengage.com/covid-19-support/>

Cengage Learning is providing free trial access for the rest of the semester to Cengage Unlimited (which includes access to courseware and eTexts) for this semester to students in classes using Cengage materials—regardless if they are a current customer or not.

Mid-Semester Grades will remain open in e-campus

We recognize that there are many challenges we are all addressing, therefore, mid-semester grade rosters in e-campus will remain open until final grade rosters open in late April. The Key is providing first-year students with an understanding of how they are doing. You may decide to do this through any one of several mediums, including, but not limited to, eCampus, Starfish notes, emails, Sakai.

RESOURCES

ATL is your home for instructional support.

Visit <https://web.uri.edu/atl/> to access remote instruction resources and workshop information.

URI COVID-19 Response Information

Centralize location for information related to the URI COVID-19 response, including information for - <https://web.uri.edu/coronavirus/>

ITS Support

Visit - <https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/> for quick links to remote instruction needs.

UPDATES

Late this afternoon, Deans, Department Chairs and the Remote Teaching & Learning Task Force met via WebEx with the Provost and members of ATL and ITS.

Here are some of the topics/questions addressed at that meeting:

Class work expectations this week:

Face-to-face classes are cancelled from March 16 to 20 so students cannot be expected to participate in those classes during this week. Some students may not yet have access to the internet or to their school materials, which may still be in their dorm room. Students can work on assignments given before spring break, but no new work should be assigned this week and due dates should be extended into the period when classes are back in session after March 23rd.

What about students with limited housing options or no access to computers/internet

We are NOT turning away students who need a place to live, food, self-quarantine spaces for this purpose. We are investigating ways to augment what students have for access ranging from providing wifi to low tech approach like send files by mail on a flash drive.

Faculty are encouraged to survey their students regarding access to a laptop and wifi, including whether their connection is sufficient for streaming video.

Remember that file sizes matter, not all students who have slow bandwidth will be able to download large files. Avoid large images in PowerPoint files, compress images/videos before posting. ITS can provide help (or submit a help ticket and we will train remotely).

Has there been any discussion of moving to a pass/fail option for courses?

We have had a limited discussion about this. As described in the University Manual, students can't use pass/fail for a course required in their major. First and foremost, you to meet your classes' learning goals and outcomes. Certain classes will be challenging in a remote format (theatre, labs) and perhaps this could be an option. Any decision would require approval by the Faculty Senate. Maybe this would be a good topic for the task force to review.

What if we don't hear from students in our classes after reaching out?

Faculty should reach out by email. If students don't reply it is important to try to reach them to find out if they are able to continue using remote instruction. Faculty can access their class roster through e-campus and Starfish. If students don't respond enlist the help of an advisor or early alert.

If students have a phone, they can phone into a WebEx meeting for an advising appointment or office hours.

How do we do office hours?

Face to face will be struggle because so few students will be on campus. Use whatever approach works for you. You can set up phone call appointments or set up open office hours in WebEx and students can join your personal meeting room during that time.

How do we assess students?

Assessment will probably look different for many courses. Think about open book, lower stakes assessments on which students are less likely to cheat. The ATL group will work to compile some resources on assessment and some of their faculty affiliates will be happy to discuss options with interested faculty. This might be another good topic for the task force.

What if we need resources to move to remote instruction?

If you need specific resources to meet deliver your course, work with your department chair to develop a request, which should be forwarded to your Dean. The Provost's Office commits to a quick turn-around on approved request forwarded by the Deans.

Want to hear more?

Access the full WebEx recording here:

[https://rhody.webex.com/rhody/ldr.php?RCID=391ed454855e45c089d11d1e75b6705a:](https://rhody.webex.com/rhody/ldr.php?RCID=391ed454855e45c089d11d1e75b6705a)