URI Remote Teaching & Learning Task Force

UPDATE 3/24/2020

Have a question or a suggestion?
Send us your questions or suggestions through the COVID-19 Faculty Question/Suggestion Form, available on the ATL (https://web.uri.edu/atl/), Provost's (https://web.uri.edu/provost/) and Faculty Senate (https://web.uri.edu/facsen/) web pages.

Looking for a previous Update? Check here:
https://web.uri.edu/provost/2020/03/13/supporting-faculty-during-the-transition-to-remote-learning/

NEWS
For Latest information on the URI COVID-19 Response: https://web.uri.edu/coronavirus/

The Academic Enhancement Center is Online!
Writing Center - appointments can be booked online through uri.mywconline.com. More detailed instructions can be found on the Writing Center webpage at uri.edu/aec/writing.

STEM Tutoring - is offering online tutoring on a weekly basis and an as-needed basis. Students can search for online availability by logging into aec.uri.edu. New availability is being added as quickly as possible.

Academic Skills Consultations – WebEx appointments with David Hayes can be booked via Starfish. Tips for online learning are available here: https://web.uri.edu/aec/i-need-help-with/

Assessment in the World of Remote Teaching
The ways we have done things -- strictly lecturing, in person exams, face to face involvement -- cannot be the ways we do things going forward, at least for the time being. To address that latter issue of assessment, the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning has developed this "living" document with advice, information, and links to resources, which will be updated regularly. Please use what you find useful!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ez9YaGMIPzfalp8Mq55Kk4Pu2FzAYdsBhdbGIPmEp1Y/edit

Additional ATL Drop-In Sessions on Remote Teaching and Assessment Strategies
ATL has added an evening drop-in session on Thursday at 6 pm (via WebEx) to provide access for faculty who are unavailable during the day. Daily sessions at 10am and 2pm continue. Faculty are encouraged to drop-in and share their most pressing questions about remote teaching strategies, assessment and learning in a remote classroom. WebEx meeting information is available on the training calendar: https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/its-atl-training/

*Training, **including individual consultations**, continues to be available to support your transition to remote learning:*
The upcoming training sessions are listed here: https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/its-atl-training/
For information on individual consultations. Visit:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Sqxhq1vlNXKu8EXCr2hr6_5FP9AEHSDbIRxkS8bt_b0/edit

UPDATES & ANSWERS

We hope everyone is surviving the first few days of the transition to remote instruction. Many of you are also juggling family responsibilities, including the beginning of distance education in our K-12 schools. There's nothing easy about this situation. Remember to keep it simple, be kind to yourself and let us know if we can help.
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Nobody-Signed-Up-for/248298

If you have comments, concerns, challenges or successes you would like to share with the Task Force, please send email to aveeger@uri.edu

Task Force Report on Alternative Grade Options
As we mentioned in our last update, following requests from a number of you and from many students, the Remote Teaching & Learning Task Force has been engaged in an in-depth discussion of potential alternative grading options.

Here is a blog that outlines approaches being taken across the nation in response to these exceptional circumstances.

https://oudigitools.blogspot.com/2020/03/feedback-alternate-grading-in-crisis.html?fbclid=IwAR1rwvC8KF7Y822BC1g6rUVkGyAusPuV_sD0FiZSLsCdP71sIgdhTUQf64g

We know that in our region, UConn, Rutgers, StonyBrook and UMass are finalizing or have implemented alternative grading options for the spring semester.

Here are two examples:

https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/spring-term-2020-guidelines-regarding-passfail-and-satunsat-options
https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/communications/important-information-on-spring-2020-grade-options/

The Task Force examined options that might be available at URI and have shared the information we gathered with the Faculty Senate. A copy of the report is attached for your information. Any alternative grading options will require approval by the Faculty Senate and President, so stay tuned for additional information as your colleagues in the Senate work on this issue.

Best Practices for LGBT Students' Names and Pronouns on Online Platforms
From the URI Gender and Sexuality Center.
1. When uploading rosters for online platforms like WebEx, be sure to use the most up to date e-campus roster for your course. This will ensure that students' preferred names are most likely represented.

2. If possible, select settings that allow students to change their posted names on all online platforms you're utilizing.

3. Do not select automatic settings for gender or other pre-sets for names, pictures, pronouns, etc. This will avoid any inappropriate automatic fill of inaccurate information.

4. Email your students in all courses where you are using a new medium and offer to use a different name and/or pronoun at their request. Encourage them to contact you so that you may correct any inaccurate information that may have already been posted.

5. Do not change students' names or pronouns unless they've requested it or otherwise informed you of a different name and/or pronoun they'd like to use.

6. Do not automatically select any pre-sets that include pictures of students. Many LGBT students do not want their student ID picture posted for them anywhere. Additionally, when a picture is not available, many programs will default to a gendered image.

7. If you have any difficulty or need assistance in addressing LGBT people or issues in your courses, please contact Annie Russell, Ph.D., Director, Gender and Sexuality Center, annierussell@uri.edu.

Students reporting they can't sign on?
Students need to do the single sign-on (SSO) password unification process to access all the Remote Learning Platforms. If students, faculty or staff are having difficulty logging into any of the URI ITS platforms (Gmail, Sakai, Brightspace, TutorTrac, TechsmithRelay, Office 365, WebEx, Starfish, Google Meet, etc (everything but e-campus), please have them complete the single sign-on password unification step available here: https://password.uri.edu/

How do my students and I access journals and library paywall e-materials while off-campus?
If you connect to resources via the Libraries home page, you will automatically be connected to materials via our proxy server, which authenticates you as a URI student, faculty, or staff member. See https://uri.libguides.com/circulation/ezproxy for more information.

If a paywalled online information resource is set up to work with URI's proxy server, you can add **https://uri.idm.oclc.org/login?url=** before the URL to gain access, for example https://uri.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0896841120300469.

Students are reporting problems with bandwidth, what can I do?
Check out this blog post for insights into alternatives to teaching with video conferencing. https://www.iddblog.org/videoconferencing-alternatives-how-low-bandwidth-teaching-will-save-us-all/

I'm worried about running out of storage on my Sakai site, what do I do?
You can find out your Sakai site's storage capacity by the following path in Sakai: Resources (make sure this tool is active) > Check Quota tab, and your site quota will be displayed. If you are close to running out of storage, you can request more storage space here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2sfe_T9XgkK2z-Op_rI7LDwnO2zHfZC7wcxTojdNaatd9qA/viewform

See: https://web.uri.edu/atl/ FAQs for more questions and answers.

RESOLUTION

Instructional/IT Resources

ATL is your home for instructional support.
Visit https://web.uri.edu/atl/ to access remote instruction resources and workshop information. This includes a rapidly expanding FAQ section with answers to many of your questions.

Training Session Schedule: https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/its-atl-training/

Individual Consultations and Updated Remote Teaching Resources
ATL Staff are available for individual consultations and have continued to update the Remote Teaching Resources: https://web.uri.edu/atl/.

Unable to attend a training session?
You can view the ATL First Steps Session slides here:
    https://drive.google.com/file/d/157uDvk7kJyQBkKtIOIBxkcJd0uUDpy0n/view

And the remote instruction planning document is here:
    https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KQOY18yvDWqGzQ2tdPTmLZg4K8Ygeb7m/view

And check our new Assessment in the World of Remote Teaching here:
    https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ez9YaGMIPzfalp8Mq55Kk4Pu2FzAYdsBhdbGIPmEp1Y/edit

Instructional FAQs
Check the FAQs at https://web.uri.edu/atl/, and if you don't find the answer you need:
Submit your academic/instructional questions to the question form on the ATL site.

ITS Support
Visit - https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/ for quick links to remote instruction needs.
Call 874-4357 or email helpdesk@uri.edu for assistance.

Trouble with Login?
If students, faculty or staff are having difficulty logging into any of the URI ITS platforms (Gmail, Sakai, Brightspace, TutorTrac, TechsmithRelay, Office 365, WebEx, Starfish, Google Meet, etc (everything but e-campus), please have them complete the single sign-on password unification step available here: https://password.uri.edu/

File Compression Options
Free image resizer online: https://www.img2go.com/compress-image
Compress PDFs and other Word docs: https://docupub.com/pdfcompress/

Spaces to record a lecture
A number of recording "Suites" have been established on campus: https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/recording-spaces-on-campus/

University Libraries
For information on accessing information and getting research assistance from off-campus, please see https://uri.libguides.com/covid.

Support for Students

Academic Enhancement Center Info for students:
Online support is now available: https://web.uri.edu/aec/
The AEC has prepared "Tips for Remote Learning". Please share this with your students.
 https://web.uri.edu/aec/files/URI-AEC-Tips-for-Remote-Learning.pdf

Students separated from their textbooks or didn't purchase the textbook?
- URI Campus Stores is collaborating with VitalSource Helps, providing aid to students with course materials during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students can **borrow up to 7** ebooks until **May 25, 2020 at no cost.**
  Students must use their URI email access create an account and access the database. Offers access to textbooks from a number of different publishers (textbooks only, not associated courseware). https://campusstore.uri.edu/SiteText?id=74512
- Get FREE access to Cengage Unlimited for the rest of the semester (includes courseware) https://www.cengage.com/covid-19-support/

Disability Services for Students
DSS has created a web site with information to support both students and faculty during this transition - https://web.uri.edu/disability/covid/. If you have concerns about a particular student, you can also reach out to their case manager directly; each accommodation letter indicates which case manager approved the accommodations at the top.

URI Counseling Center
https://web.uri.edu/counseling/covid-19-update/

Support for You and Your Colleagues

Looking for a way to socialize with your colleagues? Try the Online Virtual Faculty Café
This is a virtual faculty lounge, created by and for faculty and staff at URI, to chat about teaching with technology ideas, share resources, and provide support to meet the needs of students in remote learning contexts. https://www.facebook.com/groups/URIChatCafe/

Have Knowledge to share?
Try Yammer, part of the Office 365 suite, as a platform for supporting each other. Go to office.com, log in with your SSO credentials, then click "All Apps" and then the "Yammer" button. Looks and feels a like facebook, but is open only to URI.

Employee Assistance Program
State employees, dependents and household members can receive free confidential assistance with personal and job-related problems through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
https://web.uri.edu/hr/benefits/eap/

Faculty/Staff Stress Management Support
https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/chilling-out/