

URI Remote Teaching & Learning Task Force

UPDATE 3/27/2020

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/>

Congratulations! You made through the week! Your efforts have been herculean over the past two weeks, so please take time for yourself this weekend. Remember to keep it simple, be kind to yourself and others, and take care of yourself. We're in this together and with each other's support we'll make it through.

NEWS

Faculty Senate Special Meeting to Consider Alternative Grade Option

The Faculty Senate has scheduled a special emergency meeting for Thursday, April 2, 2020, 4:00-5:00 PM to consider an S/U*/F grading option. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee prepared an alternative grading option motion for consideration by the Faculty Senate.

Motion available here: https://web.uri.edu/facsen/files/Alternative_Grading_Scheme_Option.pdf

The Faculty Senate would like everyone's input, so please provide feedback to your senators (<https://web.uri.edu/facsen/files/2019-2020-SENATE-MEMBERSHIPPrev-S20.pdf>)

A WebEx meeting notice will be issued for the senate meeting, which is open to everyone.

URI Student Emergency Assistance

Please share the [URI Student Emergency Assistance Check-In](#) with your students. Student Affairs is trying to assist URI students with emergency needs in light of COVID-19, but need to better understand their greatest concerns at this time.

It is a short (2-3) minute survey that provides the list of current resources at URI ([Student First Fund](#), [Rhody Outpost](#), [Ramtech laptop rental](#)), in the community, and unemployment links for CT, MA, and RI. They can also schedule a follow up meeting with Jacqui Tisdale.

Drop-In Sessions on Remote Teaching and Assessment Strategies

MWF 12-1, TR 11-12 and 6 pm (via WebEx) - drop-in and share your 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/>

Support, including individual consultations, continues to be available to support your transition to remote learning:

The upcoming support 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/1Sqxhq1vINXKu8EXCr2hr6_5FP9AEHSDbIRxkS8bt_b0/edit

UPDATES & ANSWERS

Challenges of Working from Home and Balancing Caregiver Responsibilities

The challenges many faculty are facing juggling family and work obligations were highlighted at a Department Chairs forum earlier this week. Frustration has been compounded by internet bandwidth challenges this week as the nation has pivoted to online work and instruction.

One suggestion from ATL is to consider asynchronous online and remote teaching formats, rather than synchronous class meetings at a specific time. This may fit into your at-home schedule better and will minimize disruptions due to teleconferencing glitches.

Share your “balancing” ideas and experiences with your colleagues through the [Faculty Support Network – Balancing Family Care with Remote Teaching](#) Google doc hosted on the ATL website. Our hope is it might serve as a supportive resource for the URI teaching community.

Please support URI students who are in the National Guard.

The Guard is being mobilized to train medical teams in RI, assist in giving out food and supplies to the community, create field hospitals for (when/if) we need them because of hospital overflow, preparation for quarantine zones (building and planning), and anything needed by community members that are on the front lines.

The impact of National Guard duty will vary by student and assignment. Most importantly, we are fortunate to have our National Guard members in this time of crisis.

From Rachael Garcia - our Assistant Director of Veteran Affairs and Military Programs

"I ask that professors allow the student to determine what they are capable of completing and let them know that they are in support of their primary mission. Just to remind staff that these are orders. They don't often choose to become activated and it's not always the best time but they still serve and protect."

Rachael can be reached at rachael_garcia@uri.edu if you have any questions.

Students reporting that they don't have a laptop?

Please direct students to RamTech to fill out the laptop loaner form: <https://ramtech.uri.edu/home>.

Laptops can be shipped to a student's home.

Students reporting they don't have internet access?

Please compile a list of students lacking internet access, with email address, and send to aveeger@uri.edu. We will work with the Division of Student Affairs to reach out to the students. Numerous internet providers are opening up hotspots, increasing data limits at no cost, and providing very low or no-cost connectivity, so encourage affected students to contact their cellphone or cable TV provider if applicable.

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

RESOURCES

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

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.

Support 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/>.

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>

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 is Online:

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>

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/>

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.
<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.

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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/>

Navigating the Balancing Act

Share your “balancing” ideas and experiences with your colleagues through the [Faculty Support Network – Balancing Family Care with Remote Teaching](#) Google doc hosted on the ATL website. Our hope is it might serve as a supportive resource for the URI teaching community.

Have Remote Teaching 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/>
