

Dear colleagues,

Many thanks to the concerted effort of re-launching classes yesterday. Early accounts speak to glad reunions and welcome gatherings around academic content. We have scheduled these messages about academic continuity for Tuesdays and Thursdays, with discussions of issues and questions raised by you and our students in the academic continuity meetings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please do keep the questions and ideas coming by contacting your department and concentration chairs, Executive Council members, and the Associate Deans – and thank you for all that you are doing in your classrooms and communities.

As we continue to work through the many important issues that face us in the coming weeks and months, we will rely on our committees as well, which are meeting to discuss issues relevant to their charges.

This week, we look forward to a Virtual Faculty Friday to discuss faculty governance and how decisions are being made in the age of COVID-19. Please join us at this link: <https://grinnellcollege.webex.com/grinnellcollege/j.php?MTID=m2ac640f9d223924f9cece53eb9eea3fa> with password "grinnell". Phone in at 1-415-655-0001, access code 920 510 582.

Data Usage Information

Some of you have reported data usage or uploading challenges. According to [this article from PC World](#), both Mediacom and CenturyLink are suspending data usage limits for consumer customers. As much as possible, please use secure wifi, e.g. that of a campus parking lot. **Please note: if you are having trouble uploading information, your students may have trouble downloading it.** Encourage your students to locate secure wifi, if they are experience trouble. As ever, opt for the technologically minimalist route.

Encourage Students to Keep Course Content Secure

In this new landscape, we have become aware of bad actors who can invade on-line classes; the Zoom platform's experience of these invasions has resulted in the term "Zoom bombing" becoming more common parlance. Classes, for example, might be surveilled by political groups and/or racist or misogynistic groups. We encourage you to remind students not to share course content outside of your class. If you have concerns about security and access, please contact [Autumn Wilke](#).

Challenges Faced by Students Who Returned Home Overseas

Please keep in mind that for students returning to China, local laws may prevent them from accessing internet-based resources like YouTube. Other students are returning to countries that require two-week stays in quarantine camps or in isolated settings before they are allowed to return to their families where access to electronic communication will resume. If you are not hearing from your student, [Mollie Ullestad](#) can let you know if your student is residing in the U.S. or abroad. If you believe that the difficulties your student is facing will result in challenges with academic continuity, please contact [Joyce Stern](#) in Academic Advising.

Academic Support Continues for Grinnell Students

Grinnell's many Academic Resource Centers remain committed to our students' success this semester. They are all open (working remotely). [Detailed information](#), available on GrinnellShare, has been shared with students.

CTLA/DLAC Regular Open Forum on WebEx, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:05–2 p.m.

Join fellow faculty and staff to share how remote teaching is going, exchange ideas, and ask questions. CTLA/DLAC will hold these forums through the end of the semester. [Join online](#) (it will be the same link every time) and use the password "grinnell" or join by phone at 1-415-655-0001 and use access code 925 080 603.

How to Reach ITS

Information Technology Services is open virtually 24/7. Please use one of the ways below to reach them rather than contacting individual ITS staff directly:

By phone: x4901 or 641-269-4901

By email: ITServices@grinnell.edu

Online: help.grinnell.edu

See these ITS GrinnellShare sites for helpful information and resources: [Remote Working](#) and [Instructional Continuity](#).

Clarification About Professional Development Funds for Faculty—Funds Have not Increased

In light of recent changes to pedagogy and faculty research needs during this academic year, the Committee for the Support of Faculty Scholarship has approved the following changes to Professional Development Funds:

Tenured, tenure-track, senior lecturers and SFS faculty may increase the cap for book expenditures from \$500 to \$1000. *Please note that development funds have not increased; faculty must remain within their \$3000 limit.*

Term faculty may reallocate up to \$500 dollars of their remaining conference travel funds toward the purchase of books. *Please note that development funds have not increased; term faculty must remain within their \$2500 limit.*

Please submit receipts to Marcia Baker. Questions may be directed to Senior Associate Dean Maria Tapias.

Research Continuity

- The Grants Office has contacted faculty and staff principal investigators of externally funded projects and will continue to be in touch with them to help make any adjustments to grant plans or timelines that are necessary in response to COVID-19.
- The Grants Office remains open; we are delighted to talk with faculty and staff about immediate or long-term grant plans. Most funders continue to accept applications, though some have delayed some deadlines or added some flexibility to their processes--we are happy to help you navigate this.
- More broadly, we are seeking ways that we can help support our community of researchers during this time of upheaval. While this is *not* a time in which anyone should be feeling pressure to make headway on their research, we recognize that, for many of us, research is a source of joy and renewal, and we hope to find ways to provide support and fellowship for researchers at Grinnell. We'd welcome any thoughts you have about how best to pursue this--please feel free to contact [Susan Ferrari](#).

We wish you well in your continuing work, and look forward to working with Executive Council, the Associate Deans, and our many faculty and staff governance and operations groups to support you and our students.

In admiration,

Anne F. Harris, Dean of the College
Todd Armstrong, Chair of the Faculty