UPDATE: COVID-19 March 18 update: remote teaching for full spring term

Schacht, Leslie

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 6:16 PM
To: Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life
Cc: Dougherty, Kevin A; Peters, Johnny B; Elam-Geuting, Kelsey K
Attachments: March 18 Update.pdf (994 KB)

Fraternity/Sorority Community Leadership:

I’m following up to share some updates from the CFSL and also highlight some portions of OSU’s announcement.

I’ve included a few highlights from OSU’s announcement and provided some additional guidance for your chapters below:

- **ALL REMOTE INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY FOR SPRING 2020** - Effective Monday, March 30, and throughout spring term, all OSU campus instruction will be conducted remotely. This includes academic labs, testing during the term, and final examinations. Ecampus instruction remains unchanged.
  - **OSU will remain open in limited operations. Students will still be attending classes virtually and are welcome to stay in Corvallis.**
  - **Please check in with your members and start to determine what their plans are for spring term. Will they remain in Corvallis? Will they be going home?**
  - **Chapters should review any remaining events planned for spring term and work on cancelling/postponing any in-person events: philanthropies, socials/functions/formals, retreats, etc.**
  - **We encourage chapter meetings to still occur remotely via resources like Zoom so members can stay engaged with the organization. The governing councils will continue their meeting schedules in remote delivery. As spring term begins, we will share resources on how to continue to stay connected with your members.**
  - **More information regarding council dues, recruitment activities, All-University Sing, Greek Awards, the Relationship Statement, and other spring programs will be shared in the coming weeks. OSU is preparing to share information soon regarding campus-wide impacted spring term events as well.**

- **NO PENALTY FOR RESIDENCE HALL CANCELLATIONS** - University residence halls and student housing on the Corvallis and OSU-Cascades campuses – and at HMSC – will remain open during spring term. Student residents who choose to engage in their remote academic learning from their home community will be able to cancel their OSU residence hall contract without penalty. If a student chooses to return to their home community during spring term, their housing fees will be refunded on a prorated basis.
  - **OSU residence halls will remain open and students are able to stay on campus for the term, while they complete their classes remotely.**
  - **Please consult with your advisors, house corporation board, and inter/national organization as it pertains to your chapter’s facility (if applicable) while university classes and the majority of services are operating remotely.**
  - **We know there are questions regarding members who live in housed chapters and who wish to stay on campus for spring term. Fraternity and sorority houses are privately owned, and it is up to each organization to determine what should be done with individual tenants. We do ask that each housed chapter keep the CFSL informed of plans/intentions moving forward as it relates to student housing for the spring term. We will be sending a brief form for each housed chapter president to complete as it relates to facility functions for the spring term.**
  - **A number of chapters have already restricted access to their facilities to not allow guests and non-residents. I urge you to analyze your own internal measures to prioritize the safety of your tenants.**
  - **Folks are asking how their housed chapter can provide safe social distancing at this time. Again, please consult with your house director, advisors, house corporation board, and inter/national organization as it pertains the best options for your facility and own chapter needs. Gatherings of more than a few members at a time should be restricted in order to maximize social distancing. Housed chapters with sleeping porches should attempt to spread out members amongst beds to maximize social distancing.**
Sheets should be washed often and bed posts/door handles should be wiped down daily. Meal times should be staggered in order to maximize social distancing and ensure no gatherings of large groups are occurring. Remember that OSU residence halls house more residents than fraternities/sororities and their facilities are remaining open. If you have questions about the guidance being provided by UHDS, you can find that information here.

Please reply to this email and let me know what additional questions I can assist with answering! I know these continue to be challenging times where information is changing rapidly, thank you for your patience as we work to provide updates for the community.

As always, continue to stay informed by checking the COVID-19 Information on the OSU homepage daily. You can access information shared with fraternity/sorority leadership by clicking here.

Take care and be well!

Interfraternally,

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From: Inform-c07 <inform-c07-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu> On Behalf Of Feser, Edward
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:35 PM
To: Inform OSU <inform.osu@oregonstate.edu>
Subject: [Inform-c07] COVID-19 March 18 update: remote teaching for full spring term

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18 March 2020

UPDATE SUMMARY:

- OSU will move to remote instruction for all of spring term.
- We have introduced the Oregon State University Pledge: OSU students will stay on track to graduate. If a student was on an approved pathway to graduate this spring, but cannot because of changes to instructional delivery, a scholarship will cover the additional tuition needed to complete remaining credits in a subsequent term.
- OSU residence halls, student housing, and dining halls will remain open.
- Students who leave OSU residence halls to return to their home community to complete spring term will not be charged cancellation fees.
- OSU will offer expanded employee leave.

**ALL REMOTE INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY FOR SPRING 2020**

Effective Monday, March 30, and throughout spring term, all OSU campus instruction will be conducted remotely. This includes academic labs, testing during the term, and final examinations. Ecampus instruction remains unchanged.

Oregon State University will remain open.

At least through spring term, the university will continue critical activities of research, OSU Extension and engagement, student services, and general operations by adhering to social distancing and use of communications technology for meetings and conferencing. OSU is taking these steps informed by the public health guidance of our local county health departments, the Oregon Health Authority and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as state and federal officials.

**OSU PLEDGE**

Oregon State University is committed to ensuring every student reaches their academic goal.

OSU will assure that all undergraduate and graduate OSU students who are on an approved pathway to complete their requirements to graduate at the end of spring term 2020 – and whose graduation is impeded by OSU’s COVID-19 instructional delivery changes – will receive a scholarship to cover the additional tuition needed to complete their remaining credits in a subsequent term. Scholarships will be available for up to 8 credit hours and may be expanded as resources allow.

**NO PENALTY FOR RESIDENCE HALL CANCELLATIONS**

University residence halls and student housing on the Corvallis and OSU-Cascades campuses – and at HMSC – will remain open during spring term. Student residents who choose to engage in their remote academic learning from their home community will be able to cancel their OSU residence hall contract without penalty. If a student chooses to return to their home community during spring term, their housing fees will be refunded on a prorated basis.

We anticipate that on our Corvallis campus many students will remain in residence halls during spring term. Students who choose to return to their home community are asked to fully vacate their residence hall room in coordination with University Housing and Dining Services and staff at OSU-Cascades and HMSC. Until further notice, all OSU dining centers that remain open will be operated in compliance with the state of Oregon’s rules of take-out operation for restaurants that serve the public.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Student services at all OSU campuses and centers will continue to be offered during spring term, although some will be offered at a reduced level. Fees may be revised accordingly.

In coordination with ASOSU and the Associated Students of Cascades Campus, OSU may propose to the university’s Board of Trustees at its April 3 meeting revised incidental fees for spring term. These revised student fees will recognize the variable service levels being provided to students while maintaining support for essential student health services and other programs.
Until further notice, Dixon Recreation Center on the Corvallis campus will not operate during spring term.

**UNIVERSITY FACILITY AND BUILDING OPERATIONS**

Most OSU buildings will remain open at some level to support ongoing teaching, research and engagement activities.

In the next 48 hours, the university will provide further clarification on what constitutes critical university staffing and services. In order to provide the OSU community and Oregonians we serve with clear information on the continuity of university, college, division, unit and program operations, we ask that building managers and appropriate leaders await further OSU guidance to be provided shortly.

**EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE RELATED TO COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Oregon State University appreciates the remarkable ongoing contributions of its employees. The university recognizes that during the nation’s – and the university’s – response to the COVID-19 outbreak, OSU employees will be impacted due to remote working measures, job assignment changes, hours worked, and family considerations, such as the closure of schools and childcare centers.

During spring term, the university will seek to retain the employment of its employees (which includes graduate assistants) and student workers. Employment will be determined by the university’s continued and required level of operations and OSU’s financial capabilities.

Employees, who are not able to work due to the university’s COVID-19 response or their own personal or wellness circumstances, may utilize the following university employee benefits (if eligible):

- all accrued personal sick leave;
- all hours of personal leave and accrued vacation.

Additionally, as part of its COVID-19 response, OSU will provide 80 additional hours of paid leave to employees. This additional leave is based upon an employee’s full-time equivalent employment, so it will be prorated based upon an employee’s actual level of employment. This leave is not compensable, is only available for use during the university’s COVID-19 response, and cannot be reserved for use or paid out at some future time.

The university fully recognizes that the impact on OSU employees from COVID-19 may last for many weeks and months. To retain current employment at present levels beyond the leave benefits provided above, the university will require additional financial assistance from the Oregon Legislature and the federal government.

**YOUR EFFORTS ARE IMPORTANT AND APPRECIATED**

These steps will prompt many questions and cause disruption for all. I ask everyone to do their best to accommodate them.

Also, please continue to take appropriate personal and public health measures, and support other OSU community members, including the families of OSU employees affected by these measures and other measures required by the state of Oregon. And, check regularly the university’s COVID-19 website daily for updated information.

Thank you for all you do for OSU.
Edward Feser
Provost and Executive Vice President

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