COVID-19 Update

DISTANCE LEARNING
It is important to remember that if you are teaching live (e.g. Zoom) to students who are at a distance and in different time zones, recording your lecture through whatever technology is available to you would be invaluable to students, especially international students. Faculty are also reminded to address student accommodations within their distance delivery modalities. Should there be any questions or concerns please contact the Centre for Student Accessibility here: https://www.uregina.ca/student/accessibility/contact/index.html.

FINAL EXAMS
The University has issued information about what we can do as an alternative to face-to-face exams. The list of alternatives provided are at the following URL:
https://www.uregina.ca/covid-19/assets/docs/pdf/daily-update-3-17.pdf
It should be noted that whatever we do must follow university regulations. If you have a final exam, it will need to be held in the existing final exam period in the time assigned to your class. Accommodations will have to be made as usual. Marisa Henderson has already prepared the accommodation schedules for students and will be sending this information to you within the next couple of days. Please review the regulations on course work and exam scheduling in the University Calendar.
We would consider any of the five options identified by the university to be acceptable alternatives to a final exam. However, we have a preference for options 1, 2, 4 or 5.

Option 1: Project or assignment in lieu of a final exam. It should be noted that option 1 could be framed as a form of take-home exam (a form of option 2) if the instructor wants it to be due on the final exam date rather than the last day of class.

Option 2: Take-home final exam. It will need to be due on the date of your class's final exam.

Option 3: A final grade based on completed coursework components, with weighting adjusted as appropriate;

Option 4: Online exams. The university communication describes online exams that would need specialized software, additional IT support and/or additional training for instructors/students as the type of online exams that should be done only if feasible and necessary. We have confirmed that online exams done through the URCourses quiz function are entirely acceptable to the university.

Option 5: What is being contemplated under item 5 is a process where the instructor makes the exam available to the students at a specific time--normally this would be done through URCourses. The students would then download the exam, complete the exam offline and submit the completed exam back to URCourses within the time specified. This is likely an easier option to execute than using the URCourses quiz function.
COVID-19 Update continued: ZOOM LICENSES
If you would like to have a Zoom account, you can create a free Basic account at https://zoom.us. You need to do this on your own. It is recommended that you use your first.last@uregina.ca as your user ID.
To host meetings longer than 40 minutes in length, contact the IT Support Centre to request an upgrade to your Zoom account. Note: you will first receive a notice asking you to confirm if you really need a pro zoom license (which will allow you access to Zoom for longer periods than 40 mins).

WORKING REMOTELY
As of end of day Friday, nearly all staff will be shifting to work remotely and we will operate with a ‘skeleton crew’. This is important for the well-being of staff.
At this time, we are still intending to keep the two computer labs on ED 5th floor open next week from 8:30 – 4:30 Monday through Friday, with invigilators present, so that students can have access to computers. We believe this will be very important, especially in the first week of the transition. If all remains the same over the next few days, we will reassess to determine whether to continue to keep these labs open.
Our two Faculty Administrators, Marjorie Murray and Devon Anderson, will take alternate days to be present on campus to manage basic operational issues. Marjorie is located in ED 512.12 (near the main reception area) and Devon is located in ED 540.12 (near the single elevator). We are assessing (and will continue to assess) whether or not any additional staff will be required to be on-site.

Staff are still be available via email and telephone (and Zoom if preferred) to students and faculty. Signs are posted on the 5th and 6th floors directing students to the appropriate phone and email contacts.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
Thomas Tse is also working remotely and will be available (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm) to support you in the event you are experiencing technical issues. Please send him an email and he’ll follow up (include a phone number if you want him to call back).

LIBRARY ACCESS
As of March 23 the Dr. John Archer Library and Archives will transition to online services only. The Library will be closed to ALL walk-in traffic.
- All floors of the Archer Library will be closed and inaccessible.
- All Library computers will be inaccessible to students, staff, and faculty.
- All print materials, including physical reserves and Textbooks for All, will be inaccessible to students, staff, and faculty.
- All Library laptops and iPads will be inaccessible to students, staff, and faculty.
- There will be no in-person services available (circulation, reference, directional support).
- There will be no processing of interlibrary loans for physical items (only electronic delivery).
For a full update on library services update visit: https://uregina.libguides.com/covid-19/

Staff Departure
Rania Magdalwya (Levene Academic Advisor) has accepted a role over at CCE. Her last day with the Faculty of Business Administration will be March 31.
Thanks to Rania for her service in the faculty – we wish her the best in her new role.

Research Funding
Gord Pennycook along with team members Timothy Caulfield (University of Alberta, Law), Cheryl Peters (University of Calgary, Health Sciences), and Christen Rachul (University of Manitoba, Health Sciences) has received funding from the Government of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Operating Grant: Canadian 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Research Funding Opportunity. Their project called “Coronavirus Outbreak: Mapping and Countering Misinformation” received a total grant of $381,708 with $75,068 of that coming to Regina.

Remote Levene Info Sessions
The Levene School is hosting an info session for prospective students:
- Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m.: Executive MBA Information Session
- Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m.: Levene Information Session (all programs)
Both sessions will be delivered via zoom. If you have any contacts who may be a good fit for a Levene degree, please pass the details along to them and have them register: https://levenegsb.ca/register-for-an-information-session/
Keg-a-Rama
The 48th annual Keg-a-Rama took place on Friday, March 6. Shout out to this year’s Faculty team, Hill Levene – Taking Care of Business including co-captains Gord Pennycook and Andrew Stevens and team members Jacqui Munro, David Senkow, Sean Tucker, Erin Luc, Kate Scheurwater, Jon McPhetres and Christie Newton. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the team’s fundraising – thanks to your support the team raised over $675 and won the award for the team with the most funds raised. Congratulations also to the Hill BSS who hosted a successful event adding a number of competition events such as rolling up a fire hose, putting on a fire fighter outfit and ping-pong ball spoon pass in addition to the regular keg relay. 16 teams participated in the event, raising $7,805 for the Regina Firefighters Burn Fund.

Access to Capital Presentation – March 26
Valerie Sluth, RBC Woman Executive in Residence and Eric Clark, COO & Partner of PFM Capital have scheduled a special presentation open to all U of R students who are interested in a career in entrepreneurship on Access to Capital:
- **Date:** Thursday, March 26
- **Time:** 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- **Location:** This presentation will take place remotely via zoom

Please consider sharing details of this event with your classes or with any students you think may be interested.

Students (or other interested attendees) must RSVP to Jodi.Spies@uregina.ca by 4pm on March 25 if they plan to attend so she can provide them with the zoom link to attend the presentation.