



OFFICE of the PROVOST

Update from the Provost

Colleagues:

As we settle into a new and unsettled routine, I want to provide some context for where we are headed in two areas. As you now know, we are continuing online/remote/alternative delivery this summer. The alternative was to wait and determine later if part of summer could be scheduled as face-to-face delivery. Rather than ask faculty, staff and students to delay planning for summer, I trust this removes both a bit of uncertainty and risk for further disruption of the summer semester. The majority of our courses for summer were already designated as online, as well.

The other issue I would like to address is that of providing students with the *option* of selecting Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory rather than the letter grade. I believe firmly that most, if not every one of us, will benefit from some sort of accommodation that is granted or provided as an option because of COVID-19. I am convinced that providing students with this option will help many complete the semester. This approach is similar to those developed by other State University System institutions. I want everyone to know that this was a collective effort across many units and across divisions. First, there was consensus that we should consider options to help our students complete this semester. Second, there was wide input and a great deal of discussion that produced UWF's approach to this issue.

I know everyone is continuing to work hard to keep the semester moving toward a successful conclusion. That is always our task, and while we are going about it differently than usual, we are still focused on our mission.

I hope this information helps explain these recent decisions. As always, but especially during this time, I appreciate all that you are doing to make sure our students are able to continue pursuing their dreams of a UWF degree.

Best regards,

George

March 27, 2020