



September 1, 2020

Dear Students:

The past week has been difficult, both for us and for you. The COVID-19 pandemic generates anxiety, stress, frustration, and uncertainty. These are natural reactions, and they are often aggravated by the pressures of the academic year, ongoing examples of racial injustice, worries about our economic future, the realization that it is now harder to see old friends or make new ones, and the absence of many of our favorite campus traditions.

As the Iowa Faculty Senate officers, please know that we realize you are going through a tough time—likely one of the toughest of your lives. You are facing risks to your physical and mental well-being. You may be sick, or you might know others who are. You may have lost loved ones. Even when taking all reasonable precautions as an individual, you may feel helpless or alone given that an effective, expedient solution to the pandemic requires a collective response.

During these challenging times, the faculty is with you. We will see what the local public health data shows over the next few days, and if changes are made to the delivery of instruction, your faculty will be ready. If more courses move online, rest assured that the faculty worked tirelessly over the summer to be prepared to teach remotely in ways that will meet or exceed the world-class quality of education you deserve and expect.

If you have questions about available COVID-19 resources at the University, please visit this dedicated [website](#). If you experience worrisome symptoms, like trouble breathing, call 9-1-1. We are grateful that many of you are doing a wonderful job following community health and safety protocols. And while it is important that we protect our physical health, we must also take care not to overlook our emotional health. If you, your friends, or your families are concerned about your emotional well-being, please contact the Student Health Nurseline at 319-335-9704 or University Counseling Services at 319-335-7294.

We thank you for your courage, resiliency, and empathy. This is a tough time for many of our faculty colleagues, too. The pandemic is unlike anything most of us have ever seen. Yet our mission remains the same: to provide the support, knowledge, and training you need to achieve your goals. Please join us in working to take care of ourselves and each other as we continue to fight this virus.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph W. Yockey, JD
Faculty Senate President
Professor, College of Law

Teresa A. Marshall, PhD
Faculty Senate Vice President
Professor, College of Dentistry

Ana M. Rodríguez-Rodríguez, PhD
Faculty Senate Secretary
Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RESOURCES

Updates on COVID-19

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
[Iowa Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#)

24/7 COVID-19 Helpline from UI Hospitals & Clinics
319-384-8819

Student Health Nurseline
319-335-9704

UI Hospitals & Clinics appointment questions
800-777-8442 (toll free) or send a message through [MyChart](#)

UI Hospitals & Clinics
[COVID-19 Preparedness](#)

University Counseling Service
319-335-7294

UI Employee Assistance Program
319-335-2085