



Faculty Senate

December 11, 2020

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

At this time last year, none of us knew what was about to happen. The suspension of in-person classes in March. New terminology becoming part of our collective lexicon: coronavirus, social distancing, viral load, Zoom bombing, mask mandates. Over 3,000 Iowans lost to Covid-19. More than 2,750 UI students self-reporting as positive for Covid-19, along with over 300 employees. A devastating derecho windstorm. The killing of George Floyd. Massive protests in support of racial justice. A major investigation into problems of racial bias within the UI football program. The termination of four UI sports. Sudden and unexpected changes in campus administration, including a new provost and a new dean of CLAS. An additional round of cuts to state appropriations. The search for a new university president. An ongoing state of financial uncertainty.

All we can say is thank you. Thank you for your resiliency. Thank you for the compassion and understanding you have shown each other and our students. Thank you for your dedication and innovation in teaching. Thank you for keeping our students' educational goals and dreams on track during times of great fear, anxiety, and confusion.

We know you might not be compensated or recognized in the ways you deserve. Not enough people will express their gratitude for the intense personal and professional sacrifices you've endured since Spring. But the entire campus community is in your debt. You've left your mark on the history of this institution in ways that will be treasured and admired long after we are gone. You rose to challenges that no faculty member in living memory has faced, and through it all, your courage and strength of character continue to keep Iowa's academic mission alive and strong.

We will always be proud, honored, and humbled to be your colleagues.

With all best wishes,

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

Teresa A. Marshall, PhD
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