

From: [Office of the Provost and SVPAA](#)
To: [Office of the Provost and SVPAA](#)
Subject: Updates from Academic Affairs
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KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND SENIOR
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

To: KSU Faculty

From: Dr. Kathy Schwaig, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: April 1, 2020

Re: Updates from Academic Affairs

I want to express my deep appreciation for all you are doing to support our students and to maintain instructional continuity during these challenging times. I am heartened to see the community spirit with which everyone at KSU is approaching the disruption caused by COVID-19. The collaboration you have exhibited and your willingness to go the extra mile to help each other and our students has been inspiring. I am grateful.

These uncertain times raise many important questions. I address several of these below.

KSU is deeply committed to the continued success of faculty and is taking steps to ensure that the coronavirus pandemic does not impede tenure-track progress. To this end, tenure-track faculty may apply to their dean, with final approval from the provost, for a one-year extension to the remaining probationary period leading up to their required tenure and promotion or required tenure review. This option is available to all current tenure-track faculty with a required tenure and promotion or required tenure review in 2020-2021 or later. Additionally, tenure-track faculty who are required to have a pre-tenure review beginning in either fall 2020 or fall 2021 may apply to their dean for a one-year postponement of this review, advancing it to the next year. Application details are currently under development by the Faculty Affairs Office. Our intent is that these steps will ease any anxiety that faculty may feel about the implications this unique situation may have on their careers.

We have received questions about administering student evaluations for spring 2020. Following a discussion with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, we have decided not to administer our normal end-of-semester student evaluations. The lack of student evaluations during the spring 2020 semester will not negatively impact 2020 annual reviews or any future promotion,

tenure, and post-tenure review decisions. Of course, faculty may administer their own student evaluation instrument(s) if they so desire.


Many of you have asked about the status of Maymester and our summer sessions. We are awaiting guidance from the USG and will let you know as soon as we hear. Given the uncertainty of our current situation, I have strongly encouraged deans to begin planning for online instruction for both Maymester and summer.

Several have asked about the impact of remote instruction on international students. As many of you know, the US Homeland Security policy normally allows for an international student to take only one (1) online course per semester. However, and as recently stated in the March 20, 2020, edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, "The Department of Homeland Security has confirmed that international students can take classes online without it adversely affecting their visa statuses..." More information can be found in the Homeland Security FAQs here: <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2020/COVID-19FAQ.pdf>.

For additional information on KSU's response to COVID-19, please go to: <https://coronavirus.kennesaw.edu>. Included on this site are FAQs for faculty, staff, and students.

President Whitten and I are immensely proud of the way all in the KSU community are adapting and thriving during this unprecedented time. Once again, I want to thank you for your commitment to student learning and for your collegial collaboration.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy S. Schwaig".