

From: Brian Lenzmeier

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 12:15 PM

To:

Subject: Coronavirus situation and teaching BVU classes (update #1)

Hello Faculty Colleagues:

A significant number of colleges and universities, including Grinnell in Iowa, have been responding to the pending Coronavirus pandemic by cancelling face to face instruction and moving entirely to online/distance learning for either the remainder of the semester or until a later date after which they will reassess. Part of the Grinnell announcement and a link is at the bottom of this email. The Board of Regents in Iowa also charged all the State Universities with immediately developing a plan to switch all instruction to virtual delivery (see other link below).

The BVU administration is monitoring this situation carefully in trying to assess the right course of action to keep our students and community safe and still meet our educational commitment to our students. We will keep you posted as the situation continues to develop. We are exploring all options, including zoom web-conferencing for teaching all of our face to face classes (this allows you to click on a link and use your computer camera to teach your class, have people do discussions in small groups, etc...) We use this platform extensively in our online and site and graduate programs and the Higher Learning Commission already has approved us to use this mode of teaching in any course. Please know that we will support all of you technologically should we get to a point where distance learning becomes our only option of teaching.

Please know that the decisions are not made lightly, and that we are considering all possible options right now. We will, ultimately act in the best interests of our students and community and their safety.

Sincerely,
Brian

Here is the announcement from Grinnell:

“Many of us have read about the possibility of high transmission rates once the virus has entered a campus. As we consider the possibility of students, faculty, and staff returning to campus with the virus, we are making the unusual precautionary measure to direct all students to make plans to go home for Spring Break and finish the semester there.”

<https://www.grinnell.edu/campus-life/health-wellness/coronavirus>

<https://www.kcci.com/article/grinnell-college-to-shift-to-online-learning-due-to-coronavirus-concerns/31351245>

News article about Iowa Board of Regents:

<https://kwwl.com/2020/03/10/iowa-board-of-regents-asks-for-virtual-instruction-for-major-universities-in-response-to-coronavirus/>

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