

Hello Faculty,

I'd say welcome back from break, but despite what I see in the news, you probably were not frolicking on a beach in Florida. But I do welcome you back as we embark on this prep week together.

Staff and administrators have been working seven days a week to build the college from the ground up as a virtual enterprise. Every single thing we do and every person's job has changed. We are working diligently to problem-solve and make decisions in this evolving situation. PAC (President's Advisory Council- the president and all the vice presidents) has been meeting for hours every day. Many of you have been working hard over break too. Academic Cabinet (chairs and directors) starts up this week with 2+ full days together. Department chairs are setting up faculty meetings.

Historically, MCAD has come together in stressful, uncertain times, demonstrating strength to work collaboratively, and I am seeing that again now. Being informed, staying calm, and helping each other is how we will get through this together.

Everyone's health and safety are critically important. In the past days you received communications from academic support areas about their availability to you and students in this period of campus facilities shut down. There are differences among them. The heads of those areas determined their capacity and availability. Staff members are considering their own safety and need to make their own decisions about comfort level being on campus. The Help Desk is prepared for laptop pick up (M-F 9:00-5:00 this week only); the Library has hours for faculty check out. You have access to your offices to retrieve items this week only. Please act on these as soon as possible.

Online Learning- James Johnson, Alex Mitchell and Laura Bray- have been working overtime to update the [Academic Continuity Checklist](#). The latest update includes lots of new videos to guide you through the transition to online teaching. We are preparing a version for students that will go out this week.

We have also added a faculty teaching resource section at the end of the document. These are links to sites specifically about teaching, with a focus on studio and art history practices. There is a click-on form if you want to suggest additions. The most pertinent suggestions will be posted in order to assist the larger community.

There are many things on your mind this week. For your work at MCAD, I ask you to concentrate on teaching and your class content. You will have questions about important academically related and college-wide issues. I will continue to update you as PAC and Cabinet works through these.

Even though we may not see each other in the hallways, we are still a vibrant community, and we are here to help. My thoughts are with all of you at this time.

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KAREN WIRTH
Vice President Academic Affairs