



OFFICE *of the* PROVOST

Message from the Provost

Colleagues:

As we settle into what I am calling "business as unusual," I wanted to take a few moments of your time to again say "Thank You" for continuing to keep our core mission at the top of our professional priorities. As the weight of the changes we are experiencing continues to bear down on each of us in different ways, it is important to keep in mind that we also have the stabilizing influence of the task at hand. I hope this provides some sense of continuity in an uncertain environment.

There are positive events on the horizon. We will celebrate commencement later in the year. There are sharp minds working on the details of the funding UWF will receive via the CARES Act. The pandemic will subside.

And there is an amazing amount of positive work going on in Academic Affairs and across divisions. Faculty continue to teach their courses creatively. Students continue to learn in a new environment. We are figuring out how to process paperwork in new ways to keep the business of the division moving. Remote work presents us with a new set of virtual workplace dynamics and new ways to communicate. Students and advisors are focused on registration. We had a fantastic response rate from faculty for Early Warning Checkpoint Three. Many of us are learning how better to use multiple platforms for meetings. The University is engaging in myriad ways to help solve community challenges. State University System institutions are sharing approaches and solutions as never before. The list goes on and on.

Challenges continue, but as members of the higher education community, we are more than capable of finding solutions to problems large and small. I look forward to the time when our parking lots, classrooms, residence halls, and athletic fields are once again full, and we can see one another face to face. It will be interesting how we apply what we are learning in the midst of this daunting chapter, but I am confident that we will be stronger as a result.

Best regards,

George

April 10, 2020