

From: [Provost](#)
To: [HOF-FACULTY](#)
Subject: A Message from the Provost
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:20:49 PM

A Message from the Provost

Dear Faculty Colleagues

For all of us this has been a challenging semester. Our transition to remote learning and teaching has been successful, and this is clear testimony that the learning process has continued virtually uninterrupted. We have made safety and security an absolute priority and this is as it should be. However, with our success in trying to safely and securely maintain the Hofstra education in these uncertain times, has also come significantly heightened stress and anxiety for many of our students. We provide an excellent overall educational experience with substantial resources and support, and have always strived to provide a quality personalized experience in support of student success. What if some of these resources, as well as the support group of friends and group activities are no longer easily available, and the personal experience becomes BlackBoard and Zoom? Clearly, this is a much more challenging environment for many of our students and perhaps even much more difficult for some subjects.

In working with students this semester, please be especially sensitive to the difficulties and challenges that our students are encountering. Everything from computer equipment to WiFi, to study space and the living environment, to support groups, to uncertainty about the future, to learning in a very different way can be incredibly difficult to navigate. The economic challenges that many of our students and their families are experiencing and the anxiety and stress are understandable but not necessarily easily managed. In these trying

times, some students are feeling overwhelmed and understandably so. We have data to support this conclusion. Our faculty are key to a good education. We will always encourage you to maintain standards but we know that our faculty are also concerned and caring educators. So, we are asking you, as part of the educational endeavor, to maintain the sensitivity and support that our students need more than ever.

We have many support services for students through Student Affairs, the Counseling Center, and SHACC. Please be sure to refer students to these support services as needed <https://www.hofstra.edu/studentaffairs/student-health-and-counseling-center.html>. However, it is faculty especially now who have the strongest, most direct ongoing connection to our students. Please do all you can to be helpful, understanding the multiple personal and educational challenges our students are experiencing. We know that it can make all the difference in the success and well-being of our students. The way we work together with our students, with sensitivity and care, will be integral to how this time will be remembered in the lives of students, now and for many years to come. The time to provide as much support possible is now and as we move to the end of the semester.

Once again, thank you for your valuable work. Please do all you can to help and please also stay safe and secure.

Sincerely,
Herman

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