

From: [University Governance](#)
To: [KU Lawrence Faculty](#); [Unclassified Professional Staff & University Support Staff](#); [All KU Lawrence and Edwards Students](#)
Subject: Message from Senate Presidents
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:18:19 PM



Dear KU Community,

Over the past couple of weeks, our KU community, along with our local, state, and national communities, have dramatically been affected by the growth of the COVID-19 pandemic. The KU Administration, under the leadership of Chancellor Girod and Provost Bichelmeyer, has addressed this unprecedented challenge with swift and deliberate action so that our university community can withstand this unfortunate global event in a way that keeps our students, staff, and faculty healthy and safe. We all appreciate that it is the people of this amazing institution that make KU special!

The purpose of this communication is twofold. First, it is to convey our sincere gratitude for all the KU personnel who have worked tirelessly in recent days in their many efforts to keep our university operating in a manner that is consistent with our overall mission to provide top-notch teaching and research. The administration is following all medical and health expert recommendations and has smartly placed high value on social distancing, which allows many of us to work, teach, research, and learn from home. Please let's remember that there are some of our colleagues, who must complete their work on campus because they are essential to KU's day-to-day operations. So to those of us who are working or learning remotely, let's be good stewards of our time even if that means we engage in our KU endeavors in a flexible way due to familial or other obligations. We are hopeful that once this pandemic passes, we can return to the Hill as a better and stronger KU.

Second, we want to stress the importance of staying connected to the KU community as we go through this pandemic together. As we experience social distancing, many of us may feel isolated, alone, anxious, or a variety of emotions that may surface due change in our life's routine or the uncertainty of the immediate future. We encourage you to stay connected with the KU community as best you can. For example, check in by phone, FaceTime, Skype or any other possible way with your colleagues, fellow students, or others who are a part of your daily life at KU. Set up group chats, or use other technology to remain connected. Be creative about how you can remain socially distant, yet remain connected to the KU community and others who are important to your success at KU.

As the health crisis around the spread of COVID-19 continues to unfold, we feel confident that the University leadership continues to work hard to keep our university community safe. Provost Bichelmeyer wants to ensure that messaging from KU is consistent, comprehensive and up-to-date. To this end, please feel free to contact the governance office at govern@ku.edu or the provost's office at provost@ku.edu if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about how the university can continue to communicate effectively and stay connected to all of us.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Valdez, University Senate President
Shawn Alexander, Faculty Senate President
Tiara Floyd, Student Body President
Robert Waller, Staff Senate President