Campus & Student Life during COVID-19

Iowa Board of Regents, Campus & Student Affairs Committee
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Campus & Student Life during COVID-19

- Martino Harmon, ISU Senior VP for Student Affairs
- Paula Knudson, UNI VP for Student Affairs
- John Cool, ISD Assistant Administrator
- Sarah Hansen, U. of Iowa VP for Student Life
Campus & Student Life during COVID-19

- Student feedback
- Adaptation & Innovation
- Generosity of spirit
Student feedback

- Student leader roundtables
- Surveys of thousands of students

As faculty and staff, we are often supporting students through difficulty that we are not also experiencing. The challenge with COVID-19 is that everyone is experiencing it at the same time.
Student Surveys: Key Findings

The majority of students indicated that they:

• Talked to or made an appointment with their advisor
• Were aware of virtual academic support and IT resources
• Were aware of or have used virtual health and wellness resources
• Knew about the Pass/Not Pass policy
• Had a neutral to positive assessment of well-being
  • Satisfied with content and amount of communications
Student Survey: Key Findings

Nearly all students still interact with peers via:

- Social media
- Texting
- Email
- Video chat
- Online group discussions
- Not using: phone calls
Student feedback: Online Learning

- Students appreciate the transparency of communication
- Professors are generally working hard to adapt and be engaging
- Difficulty getting motivated, juggling life at home & learning
- With fewer distractions, some are more “locked in” on their classes
- Test of personal discipline/willpower
- Adapting to new and different assignments
- Internet connectivity can be an issue at home
What students say they need:

• Social media updates
• Faculty who are being flexible with the adjustments and good with communication
• Instructors taking the time to record videos or online lectures
• Academic tutoring and supplemental instruction online
• Financial support - many depend on on-campus jobs to pay U-bill and rent
• Communication from services on campus
• “It would be interesting to see all the resources of tutoring, academic success, and counseling go online in a similar place so I could access them all, or know if I could access them all!”
Feelings of isolation can be worse for blind or deaf students.

**Mental Health**
- Journaling
- Weekly stress management activities
- 1:1 student/staff and group student/staff discussions

**Learning**
- Parents learning about braille; assistive devices
- Students practice generalizing skills
- ISD: diminishing attendance and participation
- Some students understand COVID; others do not

**Accommodations**
- Laptops, Internet hotspots delivered to student homes
- Dorm staff packed student belongings and delivered them across Iowa
Coping during a pandemic

- Maintaining existing relationships with caregivers
- Feelings of isolation
- Anxiety and depression
- Financial worries
- Family concerns
- Helping with younger siblings
- Fear of the unknown
- Some international students feel they can’t go home

**Mental Health Virtual Panel Discussion**

Coping in the time of COVID-19 is an uncharted, life-changing task for everyone, and it can make caring for our own mental health and the mental health of those around us a challenge.

Join our virtual Panel Discussion on Thursday, April 23 as campus mental health experts share resources and strategies for coping in a time of COVID-19:

**Thursday, April 23**

- **Students** | Noon - 1:15PM CST
- **Faculty/Staff** | 1:30 - 2:45PM CST

Watch video of session
Coming to terms with what has been lost

- Coping with the abrupt end of the school year
- Graduation rituals for seniors and first generation graduates
- First-year students not finishing year with friends
- Loss of internships, jobs, study abroad experiences
Innovation & Adaptation

• Tele-health and Tele-counseling
• Library delivery
• Student Leadership Awards – 9,800 views
• Online interactions
  • Motivational Mondays
  • Virtual GSS
  • Green Zone Training
  • Bingo (23 – 61 participants)
Virtual Mental Health Panel Discussions

Mental Health Virtual Panel Discussions: COPING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Coping in the time of COVID-19 is an uncharted, life-changing task for everyone, and it can make caring for our own mental health and the mental health of those around us a challenge.

Join our virtual Panel Discussion on **Thursday, April 23** to learn about resources and strategies for coping with COVID-19.

- Two separate panel discussions: one for students and one for faculty/staff
- Over 400 participants
- Panels were taped and captioned for access
Student Engagement

- Virtual programming through Campus Activities Board and Cultural Centers
- Students engaging with academic supports such as advisors and supplemental instruction
- Tele-health/counseling/wellness and disability services continue to be busy virtually
Innovation & Adaptation

A virtual parade celebrated ISD students.

No internet? No problem. Braille contractions taught over the phone, with student calling out dots to teacher.

Staff arranged for pizza to be delivered to students’ homes on their birthdays.

There’s a modification for that. A teacher of the blind made a suggestion so a student could fully participate in family game night.

Students are staying engaged with one another via cell phones, at all hours of the night. Peer engagement is high; class participation is low.
Generosity of Spirit

Allie Stutting, a UI senior, created Iowa City Errand-ers, an errand service to assist those at risk for COVID-19.

“I was on an errand dropping off groceries for a woman, and we got to talking. We were talking about such little things, but she started crying out of happiness. She was so grateful for our service, and her affirmation and light gave me hope that if you wake up every morning and do what makes you feel passionate and motivated, you are doing good in this world. Having this client so moved by what we were doing moved me in turn, and I’ll remember that interaction for the rest of my life, honestly.”

-Allie Stutting
Generosity of Spirit

Shelby Doyle, ISU assistant professor of architecture, asked if any of her student employees were interested in helping to make 3D printed face shields.

They all signed up.

“We didn’t want to give out something that didn’t perform with high quality. Face shields can extend the life of N95 face masks and help out with other hospital situations like blood draws.”

— Anna Lukens, fifth-year architecture student
Generosity of Spirit

• UNI Varsity Glee Club virtual concert:
• [http://www.unigleeclub.com/online-concert](http://www.unigleeclub.com/online-concert)

• UNI Panther Packs

• Sew Warriors with PPE Shortage for “On With Life”

• Providing food in a desert: UNI helps bring community garden to life
Students from both programs are recognizing the extra support provided them during school closure.

An ISD senior secretly planned this photo message with peers to tell staff they are missed.

An IESBVI student sent a note to all her teachers, including her teacher of the blind and visually impaired. “…This has been one of the smoothest, most accommodating semesters I’ve had yet. I was able to end it with all A’s and I thank all of my caring teachers for their help.”
Questions?