March 25, 2020

Colleagues:
Some news from the office of the VCR:

**Research Laboratories**

As the Chancellor has made it very clear, S&T is open for business: we teach, we serve, we perform research. I realize that performing research right now is more difficult, and in some cases has slowed down significantly. This, though, is temporary. Currently a number of research laboratories are operating under controlled access conditions, while some others have moved all operations on line. I also realize that a many other research labs are currently non-operational.

Balancing continuity of research with public safety is a very difficult task, and I appreciate your patience and understanding in these unprecedented times. I formed a committee of four faculty to evaluate requests for controlled access to research laboratories: Drs. Khayat, Lueking, Mormile, and O’Malley. The committee evaluated many requests based on the following criteria:

**Category A**
- Activity that if discontinued would pose a safety hazard.
- Activity that maintains critical equipment in facilities and laboratories.
- Activity that maintains animal and other living populations.
- Activity in support of essential human subjects research.

**Category B**
- COVID-19 related activity that has a timeline for deployment that could address the crisis.
- Activity that if discontinued would generate significant data and sample loss.
- Activity that maintains critical samples, reagents, and materials.
- Clinical trial activity that if discontinued would negatively impact the patient’s care.

**Category C**
- PI only / Extreme isolation.
- Immediate funding deadline will be impacted.
- Immediate student graduation will be impacted.

**Category D**
- New/routine experiments.
The committee has approved all controlled access requests for Category A and B laboratories. If the University, System, State, or Nation require continued limitation of group activities, including research, the committee and my office will consider Category C requests under a new controlled access protocol.

The following laboratories are currently open for research through limited access protocols:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Room(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Research Facility</td>
<td>104, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 202, 204, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 302, 303, 309, 310, 311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCH</td>
<td>114, 116, 213, 216, 223, 235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bertelsmeyer</td>
<td>G4, G5, G6, G8, 212A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERL</td>
<td>G9, G10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton Hall</td>
<td>B18A, B18B</td>
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<tr>
<td>McNutt</td>
<td>104, 106, 112, 256, 307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>G2, G8, G9, G10, G10A, G14, 115, 204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schrenk</td>
<td>G1, G6, G9, G13, G35, 110B, 110C, 110D, 110F, 125, 145, 209, 211, 222, 224, 225, 232, 238, 315, 325, 332, 337, 337B, 340</td>
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<td>Toomey</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OSP

OSP staff continue to work to submit proposals, accept awards, and work in post-award. We faced some University-wide issues on Monday, 3/23, related to VPN, but this has been corrected, and I am signing PSRS, proposals, and award letters.

I encourage you to continue your research proposal activity. As my office received information about COVID-19-related emergency RFPs, I will pass those along. And remember to respond to NSF’s RAPID program about COVID-19.

Agency Guidelines

On March 19 OMB released the M-20-17 memo supporting grants flexibility and describing other administrative reliefs: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0lBTmgLCojGyexyxEPA2HeJEc_qvwAJ-pAhff88Jc2QKi0zm2ow5tBzHs](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0lBTmgLCojGyexyxEPA2HeJEc_qvwAJ-pAhff88Jc2QKi0zm2ow5tBzHs)

Note that the memo gives agencies the ability to provide flexibility, but does not require it.
We also looked at a number of agency resources collected at: 

So far there is no news from these agencies regarding deliverables, RFP and report deadlines, no cost extensions, etc. We will continue to report to you any news from funding agencies.

I recommend that you contact your program managers to see if they have additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Costas Tsatsoulis
Vice Chancellor of Research & Dean of Graduate Studies
Missouri University of Science and Technology