

August 10, 2020

Dear CAS Colleagues,

I am excited to extend this note of welcome to you, the CAS family of returning and new colleagues. We will number 230+ returning, new, visiting, and adjunct faculty and staff members when we open the 2020-21 academic year in “new space” as we continue to adjust to the evolving and uncharted territory of COVID-19. While the potential dangers of this virus will enforce that physical distancing and virtual teaching and learning continue to define how we will engage, the quality and outcomes of our interactions will be powered by the reach of our collective vision and our commitments to innovative, deep learning for all members of our community.

The fall term officially opens on Monday, August 17. You will receive notice from the Office of the Chief Academic Officer with detailed instructions regarding our virtual meetings across 8/17-18. **We will gather as a college on Wednesday, August 19.** We will use the WebEx platform as our gathering space. Information for logging in will be forwarded on Monday, August 17 before the end of day. All full time, visiting, and adjunct faculty and staff are invited to attend. Our agenda for the day includes:

9-9:30 AM — Meet, Greet, Sign-in

9:45-10:15 AM — State of the College

10:15-11:30 AM — The First Lecture

11:30 AM-12:30 PM — Concurrent mini seminars I

12:30-1:30 PM — Enjoy lunch at home! (New Faculty Lunch Counter)

1:30-2:30 PM — Concurrent mini seminars II

2:30-3:30 PM — Faculty Learning Circles

3:45-4:30 PM — Share, commit, challenge

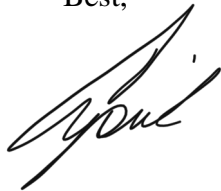
Additionally, an orientation specific to adjunct faculty members is planned for Thursday, August 20, 2020, 5-6:30 pm. Information regarding the agenda, meeting platform, and login will follow.

I look forward to welcoming everyone on the 19th. While much about how we will work has changed, our work, our very presence, is more important than ever. My office is committed to providing each of you with a satisfying and supportive work environment. We have spent the summer considering the needs of students, faculty, and staff. We are redirecting budget and other resources to support our new virtual and limited in-person realities. As we continue to grow our resources and expertise to support the needs of our community, please let us know where we are getting it right, as well as where we can improve our efforts.

Before I close, I would like to pause to salute the legacy of our beloved colleague Dr. Marie M. B. Racine. Dr. Racine was a 43-year veteran of the University and a long serving member of CAS. We offer our condolences to her family members and friends. The depth of her commitment to UDC will never be forgotten.

Again, I look forward to seeing you all next week. Thank you for all you do to make our students the dream catchers they aspire to be.

Best,



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