August 27, 2020

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

We hope that your semester is off to a great start amid the new challenges that the novel coronavirus pandemic is presenting for research and the delivery of education to our students.

Today, we write to bring two important matters to your attention.

First, a number of our students live in the coastal regions affected by Hurricane Laura. Due to the severity of the storm, many students will not have access to the internet in the coming days, even for asynchronous learning. We ask that you exercise additional compassion and flexibility at this time.

Second, we would like to reinforce the importance of adhering to the safety guidelines published on the UT Dallas COVID-19 web site. We have received reports that some faculty are not wearing masks or face coverings in classrooms or in public spaces on campus. If the university is going to require students to act responsibly, faculty and staff also must set the right example. Let us work together to establish and maintain a respectful and safe campus culture for all.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to UT Dallas.

Sincerely,

Inga H. Musselman
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ravi Prakash
Speaker of the Faculty