Date February 19, 2021

FROM: Jessi L. Smith, AVC-Research

TO: UCCS Faculty

UCCS will see more on-campus activity starting on **Monday February 22, 2021**. This means more people on campus and easier access for you and your students to your research and creative materials, equipment, offices, studios, and labs.

Even with a more accessible campus, we must stay committed to the health and safety protocols in place. This means continuing to engage in remote research and creative activities as much as possible. I know how much we all miss the face-to-face exchange of ideas, the chance to learn from each other in informal spaces, and the real-time sharing of good news. There is a [growing literature](https://research.uccs.edu/academic-impacts-covid-19) on the very real toll of the pandemic on our researchers. Yet, we must continue our resolve to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 just a little longer.

In the field of positive psychology, scholars often examine *hope* as a character strength. Hope is “expecting the best in the future and working to achieve it; believing that a good future is something that can be brought about.” (Peterson & Seligman, 2004). We can take actions today to ignite our hopes for tomorrow.

**What can you expect for the remainder of Spring 2021?**

**Essential research continues**

* All research and creative activities are considered essential and can continue.
* Faculty are encouraged to **facilitate remote research opportunities** for themselves and their students where possible, for example, literature searches, data coding and analyses, transcriptions, and online studies.
* Faculty mentors should **revisit their safety guidelines** they set last fall and update as necessary. Faculty must continue to limit the number of people in their research spaces to ensure social-distancing; use face-coverings; [take the daily self-health check](https://healthcheck.uccs.edu/); clean shared spaces, etc. Consider using a staggered schedule for your research team members.
* We ask that when possible, you arrange meetings using Zoom or Microsoft Teams or other means of remote communication to sustain student mentoring.
* Thesis and dissertation defenses can be handled remotely as needed and all submissions to Graduate School and the Library can be handled virtually.
* Travel (e.g., to field sites or conferences) using university sponsored funding is generally unallowable.

**Access to research support**

* [The Center for Student Research](https://studentresearch.uccs.edu/) and the [Graduate School](https://graduateschool.uccs.edu/) are hosting virtual workshops and professional development opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student researchers during Spring 2021.
* [Graduate](https://graduateschool.uccs.edu/uccs-finances/finance-resources) and [undergraduate student travel awards](https://studentresearch.uccs.edu/undergraduate-student-travel-program) and [faculty travel awards](https://research.uccs.edu/travel-funding-resources) have been expanded to include participation in virtual research conferences, help support open access fees, and virtual professional development activities.
* The **Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum** ([C-SURF](https://csurf.uccs.edu/)) will be virtual this spring.
* The **Kraemer Family Library** remains open, though with limited capacity. Their posted hours of operation [are here](https://uccs.edu/library/info/hours). Prospector is still unavailable. However other interlibrary loan processes are currently operating. Access to databases, journals, archives, and software are generally available off-campus via the Kraemer Family Library website. Be prepared to show your UCCS ID to gain entry.
* The [**Institutional Review Board (IRB)**](https://osp.uccs.edu/research-compliance/research-involving-human-subject-irb) will continue to review protocols for human subjects research. At this time, in-person research projects **may continue** or begin if approved through our current process. The documents and instructions for that process can be found here: <https://osp.uccs.edu/covid19-resume-research>. However, as state and county conditions change, this may change. We highly encourage all researchers to utilize remote methods to the extent possible in order to minimize disruption to your projects.
* The **Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity** (OSPRI) staff will continue to work remotely to submit proposals, accept awards, issue subawards, submit extensions, submit annual reports, and perform other sponsored program activities as usual.
* If useful, **OIT** can assist you with setting up a VPN for remote access to lab or office computers, and help you consider cloud computing options.
* Research support **staff** may require more time to accomplish their tasks. Please be patient and compassionate as they adjust to changing work demands. Let them know they are valued and appreciated whenever possible.

**Reminders for Research Activities**

* Assess and prioritize your critical research and creative activities for the remainder of spring.
* Identify research and creative activities you can accomplish remotely (e.g., writing, reading, data analyses, manuscript or grant submissions).
* Set up clear and regular communication with your research teams. Convey to your students, research personnel, and team members that they can opt out of coming to campus if they no longer feel safe.
* Ensure you have access to contact information for your research team.
* Cross-train research staff to fill in for others who may be out sick.
* Review social distancing plans, contingency plans, and cleaning procedures with your research team.
* Gather books, files, thumb drives, and documents that you require for working remotely. Keep in mind that only in rare cases can data be moved off campus. Export control, IRB, and other compliance regulations must be followed. Contact Mike Sanderson msander3@uccs.edu for guidance.

**Social distance does not mean disconnected**

The Office of Research is here to support you, offer advice, research the answer to your questions, and do our best to keep some resemblance of business as usual during this public health crisis. Stay connected via our:

* UCCS Research Listserv
* UCCS\_OOR Instagram page
* Email OOR@uccs.edu
* Office of Research Website: <https://research.uccs.edu/>

**Informational Resources:**

* [Campus information on COVID-19](https://covid19.uccs.edu/)
* [UCCS status board](https://statusboard.uccs.edu/)
* [UCCS Resources for Mental Health and Wellbeing](http://view.communications.cu.edu/?qs=f90d21b00fd00848fd26ad5fa8cf0673a84a1e99f8de12aca7a1dab667e5d4746955c2bc3285ae9d658994819addf4daa360da772387731ca4b9ff8f8e7994dc4c3bb5400c0fa4132fea067338740945)
* [CU System information on COVID-19](https://www.cu.edu/coronavirus)
* [State of Colorado information on COVID-19](https://covid19.colorado.gov/)
* [COVID-19 Impacts on Researchers](https://research.uccs.edu/academic-impacts-covid-19) 🡨Melia, I want to add this new one pls