Updates from the Registrar’s Office

I’m writing this blurb in a week normally known as ‘spring vacation,’ albeit the strangest spring vacation I’ve ever experienced.

I’d like to give some updates from the perspective of the Registrar’s Office. We are getting ready for advising and registration for the fall semester. Students have been asked to update their academic programs and to submit changes and declarations via email and many have been doing so. Our office has been keeping up with these requests and the students’ records should be up to date. The fall schedule should be public on April 1. The list of off campus interims for January and May of 2021 will also be available on April 1. Advising should and will occur as usual, with the obvious exception that it will have to be done remotely. Academic Advising days are April 21 and 22 and registration will begin for seniors in the evening of the 22nd.

We usually get lots of questions at this time of year regarding advising. Please submit your questions to successcenter@calvin.edu as there is no one answering the phones on campus. More detailed instructions and announcements will be sent to all advisors next week.

I hope all of you are well and safe.

Tom Steenwyk, registrar

Calvin’s Coordinated Care Network

Calvin’s Coordinated Care network continues to support students as courses move online. Here are a few important reminders:

- Monitor student engagement in online courses and submit student concerns when students do not sign in to Moodle, participate in discussions, submit assignments, or otherwise engage with the course.
- Respond to academic progress checks sent out by Student Success so we can create a fuller picture of the student’s semester.
- Consider reaching out to your advisees prior to advising days to ask how they are managing the semester. Continuing to cultivate these relationships is especially important now that we are not all seeing one another in the hallways and in classrooms.

Concerns for any of your students, including advisees, can be submitted to the coordinated care team via the student concern form. All questions are welcome—feel free to contact Thea Brophy for guidance (tjb28@calvin.edu).

Shout-outs – We’re all pulling together; let’s celebrate each other!

- Cynthia Slagter (Off Campus Programs), Tracy Kuperus (International Development Studies), and Tom Steenwyk (Registrar) worked tirelessly to contact numerous faculty and create a plan to allow the returning Ghana students to fulfill core and major requirements. Calvin faculty, who are already working at breakneck speed to serve their own students, have graciously created time and space for the Ghana students, enrolling students in pre-existing courses and independent studies.
The Calvin Center for Counseling and Wellness created a resource on their website with suggestions to help faculty, staff, and students care for mental health as we navigate this “new normal.”

John Sparks (Kinesiology) developed a workout routine that you can do to stay fit at home.

Neil Carlson (Center for Social Research) created an interactive dashboard that tracks the spread of COVID-19 in a precise, hyper-local way.

Cal Keen (Information Technology) made accessible via the VPN more than a dozen high-powered software programs that are critical to engineering students' learning that were previously available only in on-campus computer classrooms and workspaces.

Email any shout-outs about your amazing colleagues to Betsy Jacobsen (bij2@calvin.edu) for inclusion in a future Academic Bulletin.

From the Faculty Activity Reports


Be sure to fill out your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the FAQ page.

Coming Up on Campus

Monday, March 30
- Online prep day – no classes (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, March 31
- Online prep day – no DAY classes (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.); NIGHT classes meet (5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)
- Faculty Senate: meeting via virtual platform, 4:30 p.m.

Daily chapels will be posted here.