

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON COVID-19 TOWN HALL

May 1, 2020

PANELISTS

President Ana Mari Cauce

Provost Mark Richards

Dean of the School of Public Health Hilary Godwin

Vice President for Student Life Denzil Suite

Faculty Senate Chair and faculty member in the Information School Joseph Janes

Moderator: Assistant Vice President of Communications Jack Martin

TRANSCRIPT

Jack Martin: Good morning and welcome to this townhall on COVID-19, its effects on the University of Washington, and how our community is responding. I am Jack Martin, Assistant Vice President for Communications and I'll be facilitating today's discussion. Over the last week we received questions from more than 200 members of our community. A few key topics have emerged and we will focus on those to start the town hall. You can also email questions during the broadcast to presofuw@uw.edu. A full recording of the town hall will be available later if you miss part of it.

To answer your questions we have five UW leaders with us today, President Ana Mari Cauce, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark Richards, Vice President for Student Life Denzil Suite, Chair of the Faculty Senate and a member of the faculty in the Information School Joseph Janes, and Dean of the University of Washington School of Public Health Hilary Godwin.

To start things off I'd like to introduce President Cauce for some opening remarks.

President Cauce: Thank you so much, Jack and welcome to everyone who's watching across our campuses, from UW Medicine's hospitals, clinics, and labs and to all the students and families across Washington state, across our nation and across the world. No doubt this has been a difficult time and my heart is with all of you that have suffered and continue to suffer during this time of crisis. I'm particularly thinking about the friends and families of the community members that we've lost to the virus.

At the same time as my heart is heavy, I am proud and grateful for the UW community's resilience and dedication. You have been truly remarkable. I need to give a big shout out and a big thank you to all those who have been on the front line of this pandemic and who are taking care of all of us. The healthcare workers, researchers, first responders, custodial and food service staff, and many others who are serving our community, especially our students. And to our faculty and staff and to all of you who are keeping the university mission moving forward in this remote environment, thank you, thank you. To our students, thank you for committing to your studies and for extending such good will to each other. It has been lovely to see the communities that are forming virtual and otherwise and to the brand new Huskies who are joining us this fall, welcome! You truly are joining an extraordinary community. We are on a journey, and I'm so glad you will be part of it with us.

And there is some good news - the number of cases in Washington is decreasing. The leadership of our state is working to create conditions that will make it safe for us continuing to lift restrictions. Right now, probably the hardest thing to deal with is the uncertainty. I was reading an article this morning and they talked about disabling uncertainty. And I hope we don't let it disable us. But the uncertainty is very difficult. And while restrictions are easing, we are still in a very fluid situation. When the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order will be lifted? We are not quite sure. And how additional restrictions will be eased depends on many things including cases continuing to decline over the next month. We are right now doing everything and working very

hard planning for an in-person autumn quarter but the parameters of exactly what that means are still being defined. We know that's creating anxiety and tension. It is the most frequently asked question that got mailed in. I promise I will get to it in a bit.

In addition to the health crisis, the governor has emphasized again yesterday that we are also going to have some serious budget impacts and I know that some of you are very worried about that. There's no question that the budget impacts will be significant, but we also know that we are taking steps right now even before we know the full magnitude to mitigate those impacts. There is little doubt we will be doing more in the year to come. This is something that we will tackle as a community, putting our values first and foremost right up front.

As challenging as this is, and this is probably no question the most challenging period in my lifetime and certainly in my career. It has revealed incredible strength and capability across the University of Washington. We are incredibly fortunate, we have the top medical and public health experts in the country right here at UW. That means that when we are making our plans, we are getting the best consultation and guidance in the country and probably the world. You can be proud of your University of Washington and the impact we are having. Thank you. I look forward to questions.

Jack Martin: Thank you President Cauce. I'd like to start with you Hilary and I hope you can help us understand how public health experts are approaching the pandemic and what does that mean for communities and institutes like the University of Washington on how and when we can start safely returning to a more normal way of life? What factors are key to decision on social distancing restrictions?

Hilary Godwin: Thanks Jack. First of all, I would like to echo President Cauce's words of condolences to those who have lost loved ones. This pandemic has been hard for everybody. That being said, here in Washington, we are incredibly proud to have elected officials who have worked really hand-in-hand with public health and we have mirrored that approach here at the University of Washington to make evidence-based decisions about how to proceed.

You've heard a lot about flattening the curve during the last phase of the pandemic. Washingtonians have done a great job of doing that. The question is what is what's next for us. A phrase that you are going to be hearing more and more often is that it's a dial and not a switch. We are looking at slowly releasing some of those restrictions put into place. We are monitoring to see how things go. Hopefully things continue to improve and we continue to dial back the restrictions. We need to remain poised and ready to react if we see a resurgence of cases or a new wave of cases in the future. So, in order to prepare for that the University of Washington has been going through a number of different scenarios and we plan to keep updating that scenario planning based upon guidance that we receive from our governor, Governor Inslee and from our local and state health department so that we are making decisions that are good for the health and well-being of the folks in our community and our surrounding communities.

One thing we have been careful to think about at the University of Washington and it will continue to be an important core value to return to as we move forward, is to be mindful of the impacts of these decisions on our entire community and to be flexible where possible when recognizing different individuals in our community are experiencing different levels of impact and making sure we are making decisions that are good for everyone. And one last thing before we go on to the next person, a lot of people have asked me which restrictions are going to get lifted first. Of course, we are waiting to hear from Governor Inslee about that, but one rule of thumb is that we can expect that the first restrictions to get lifted will likely be the ones that were imposed last. And those restrictions that were placed early on which were the ones that had the most protections like restrictions on large gatherings are probably going to be the ones that we see lifted in later phases. Ok, back to you, Jack.

Jack Martin: Great thank you. President Cauce, as you mentioned in your opening remarks, many people submitted questions asking about autumn quarter. Can you describe to us the university's plans for the fall?

President Cauce: Absolutely. I know that is the question on everyone's mind. It is important to be clear about the fact that we monitor what is happening in terms of COVID conditions in our community, across the state and the nation on a daily basis. We get new and better information every day, and we want to use the latest information and the best information as we continue to plan into the future.

Right now, as I mentioned before, we are hard at work planning to be back in person, doing in person instruction in the fall. But I don't think that any university leader can safely say it is going to be business as usual or back to normal, at least the

normal of, gosh, it's only been a couple of months but sometimes it seems like decades ago. By mid-June to early July, we expect to be able to share more details about exactly what fall quarter will look like.

Our plans are being developed and we have two task forces. One is a task force that is focusing on back to in person work. That means we will be assessing when we can bring more of our employees and staff members back to campus. The other task force is focusing on back to in-person school and preparing for having students back on campus for autumn quarter and we are consulting with students, faculty and staff representatives as we develop these plans.

While these plans are still being developed, we are talking about a new normal. That new normal may include some remote instruction or flipped classrooms. For example, some of our largest lectures may be online for the lecture part of the class, but then we'll have smaller discussion sections held in person with social distancing. We expect we will be doing increased testing for COVID and contact tracing and likely we will be doing scan or surveillance testing in the dorms so that we can catch any potential outbreak right at the beginning and nip it in the bud. There is a lot of factors.

The new normal will look a little bit different than things may have looked like a year ago. We are using the very best information we have, and we are consulting with the very best experts. It is scientific knowledge and public health guidance that will be informing all of our decisions. We are closely coordinating with all of Washington's colleges and universities. I continue to consult with my colleagues across the country, especially other west coast states. We are very lucky. We have a little bit more flexibility in our time because our quarter system starts later in September, so we will have better information and a little bit more time to plan.

But to be clear, no matter how we start the quarter, we and every other university needs to be prepared to adjust. As Hilary talked about it, as Dean Godwin talked about it just a bit ago, this is more like a dial and we have to be prepared to dial up and dial back things like social distancing, potentially wearing masks and others as we learn more about the virus. It is a very fluid situation, and it will continue to be so in the fall. We plan on coming up with the great fall quarter and I hope to be seeing you there in person.

Jack Martin: Great. Thank you President Cauce. Another topic a lot of people asked questions about was the economic crisis and the effects on the university's budget. Provost Richards, as the UW's chief budget officer, what is the outlook for the university's finances and how does the UW plan to prioritize if we face significant budget cuts?

Provost Richards: Thank you for that question. I have to say this is an interesting time to be the chief budget officer for a major university. The obvious is we are in a crisis but in part because the nature, the financial nature of this crisis is different. It is very unlike for example and its terms of impacts on the University of Washington the 2008 and 2009 crisis. For example, in that previous crisis the primary hit was state support due to a weak economy. And there are many adjustments made for that.

In this case, for example, we have very large other impacts on auxiliary units like housing, and food services, and athletics, and so forth. During the last crisis I don't think anyone was worried about whether or not we'd be able to have football games in the fall. On the state side – I should add to that, an enormous impact on our medical system which is a large part of our budget at University of Washington and we have no idea what the state and federal government will be able to do to compensate for those losses – on the state side, we have great uncertainty. The governor and the legislature have yet to give us signals, I think they are not in a position to tell us what is likely to happen to the state budget.

But here's what we do know, we have a 5% downturn in the economy in the first quarter and it will be worse in the second quarter. We have 20% or greater unemployment in the country and over 750,000 people in the state of Washington are newly unemployed. This has a huge impact on small businesses as well as large corporations that depend on consumer economics like Boeing and Starbucks and Alaska Airlines, etc. We really do not know how this is going to wash in the state budget. We know that it is going to be bad. There are going to be billions of dollars lost in the state budget because of the nature of our taxation system in the state of Washington. And add to that the higher education remains a discretionary part of the state budget that leaves us particularly vulnerable in any economic crisis. We have a huge amount of uncertainty and what we are going to be looking at in the near future.

And back to the auxiliaries, the units that are so called self-sustaining like housing and food services and facilities and athletics and so forth, we already know that we will be looking at losses at a minimum of \$50 million in the coming year and probably

exceeding \$100 million and that is very different from previous crises added to the uncertainty in the state funding. And the losses for UW Medicine are in the hundreds of millions of dollars with a great deal of uncertainty about what compensation may be available when the dust settles from this crisis.

And so we have no way of gauging with any precision what the state budget is going to look like. And therefore, it is prudent for us to be exceedingly cautious in how we are budgeting. We are stepping up to the plate on that. We have effectively prohibited all nonessential hiring and spending at the University of Washington for the near future at least. We are working on a variety of scenarios for mitigating costs and mitigating losses in many different units. We do expect some state forecasts and news from the state by June. Hopefully, the picture will become more apparent although we are not looking forward to the outcome quite frankly. About what our state budget or what our situation might be.

Suffice it to say that our priority is the health and welfare and wellbeing of our students and employees and the core mission of the teaching and research as a public university and everything that means. We will stay true to our values and true to the purpose as a public entity. And so I wish I had more certainty to deliver but I think the only certainty we are going to be in for a very difficult time and we have to plan and behave accordingly. We are hopefully going to have better information within about a month and a half about the true consequences in the current crisis.

Jack Martin: Thank you Provost Richards. President Cauce, in light of this financial uncertainty, we have received many questions from folks concerned about their jobs. What is the UW doing to protect employees jobs and should employees be worried about layoffs or furloughs?

President Cauce: Okay, yes thank you. I know that is something people are anxious about. I want to begin by saying that sometimes people think of the University of Washington as a collection of buildings, and those buildings really are gorgeous. At the end of the day, the university is a collection of people and the community of people and how we treat our people really at the end of the day says what our values are about.

Very early on, we committed to no layoffs or furloughs due to COVID-19 through May 4 which was the first Stay Home, Stay Healthy guidelines. We did that because in the very early stages as people were rushing to get unemployment. Unemployment, medical leave, childcare, what kinds of federal policies we have and what kind of state policies we have, we were all up in the air, being developed. People were waiting to be able to file for unemployment. We thought that we really did not want to take any actions until the important safety net functions had been put in place and until we had better guidelines from the state and federal government about what kinds of programs might be available. Our goal was then, and continues to be, that all of our employment actions be as humane and supportive as possible. Our staff has been so amazing in helping us get through this crisis and it is important we treat them well.

Our first step is always to look for ways to reassign people whose roles cannot be performed remotely or where the job has just disappeared because of social distancing restrictions. Our museums are closed. Our performances are closed. We always try to first and foremost reassign. Sometimes that is just not possible. As this crisis is moving on and as we have not been able to come back yet, quite frankly we are likely to see some limited and in some cases voluntary and other cases what we call standby furloughs in the coming months. The reason why we will be moving to again a limited number of furloughs is because we are hoping it will help us avoid layoffs later. Furloughs are temporary. They allow people to get unemployment and to keep their benefits so they retain access to healthcare. That is why it is the mechanism we look to first. I see these as limited, but I do not want to ever lie to you. I expect that we will be doing some limited furloughs in the months to come.

I also want everyone to know that we have set up emergency financial support fund to take private contributions specifically to help staff that are having a hard time possibly because of furloughs or other reasons. We also have one for students. The most important thing is that we look forward to being able to help our staff get through this difficult period so we can all be back to work and build this amazing university that we have.

Jack Martin: Thank you. Staying on the topic of our employees, we did receive a number of questions about protections for workers against the novel coronavirus either who are still currently working on our campuses or who would come back to work as public health restrictions start to be relaxed. President Cauce, I wanted to ask you, what guidelines does the university have in place to protect employees?

President Cause: Thank you Jack. I know that that is an important question as well. I will take a moment and proselytize more broadly and say it really is important whether you are coming to campus or staying at home and going out occasionally to enjoy the sunshine or do some shopping. We all need to be very, very, very careful. Things like washing your hands, not touching your face, those are things we need to get used to practicing regardless of what setting we are in.

We do recognize that following safety protocols can be especially challenging for our on-campus workers who have a lot of interaction with the public or who work in closer proximity to the public. For example, our healthcare workers and also our food service workers, they are in a position where they have to interact with the public and being able to follow public health guidelines is a little bit more challenging. We have developed workplace guidelines hand-in-hand using the expertise of the fabulous public health experts we have on our campus.

We have, we formed actually a number of years ago and we immediately activated it, an Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases. We also have a group that's called Environmental Health & Safety and of course our UW Medicine infectious disease experts. We consult with all of them as we are developing guidelines for our workers and for our staff. As we begin recovery, we are reviewing and updating our protocols to ensure that our employees can return to work safely. This will likely include for example, one of the things that I think at times can be frustrating is that the guidance sometimes change. Early on people were hearing that maybe masks weren't a great idea and now that has changed. We will always be looking at the very latest information and we will always be changing the ways to make things safer.

As we begin recovery again we are reviewing and updating our protocols. There will likely include having our staff monitor their health for possible COVID symptoms on a daily basis and then letting us know. We are going to have employee attestations so that before employees come to work they have to say I am feeling good and I don't have any symptoms. It will include updated masking policies and enhanced cleaning protocols especially in areas that are high touch like guardrails and staircases etc.

I think it is worth noting that at the very peak of the curve which was a few weeks ago, we were doing testing of UW Medicine employees that had even mild symptoms and we found that they were testing positive at half the rate of the public at large. It seems to be that what we have been doing is effective and we will need to stay diligent throughout our campus both for our own health and for the health of our community.

Jack Martin: Great, thank you. I would like to turn to some questions from students and families so I will turn to you vice President suite. Today is national decision day for students all over the country including those who have been admitted to the University of Washington. What advice do you have for new Huskies who wonder about how this will affect the start of their academic careers?

I need you to unmute.

Denzil Suite: That might help. Let me start by saying welcome to the new Huskies. There is a lot on your mind as you prepare to start your Husky experience in a time unlike anything we have faced. Nevertheless, I want you to know that we are really excited for you to join the UW community and we're committed to ensuring that you have unparalleled opportunities to learn and discover. I do encourage you to continue your normal process for preparing to start college in the fall. We will help you adjust if the situation calls for it.

As you have heard, we are doing scenario planning for various options to operate safely in the fall but final information on that will be shared shortly. I would say that regardless of how the fall unfolds, I can promise you that your UW educators will bring their expertise, experience and knowledge to their courses to ensure that you have a meaningful learning experience.

Also, student-focused services and programs are currently available and will remain so this summer including advising and orientation, the libraries, health and wellness services and even remote access to fitness classes. I encourage you to take advantage of all of them to get and stay connected. You can find a lot of information about planning for the fall by visiting the respective websites for Bothell, Tacoma, and Seattle and all you have to do is enter the word orientation. You will find information specific to your circumstance, whether you are an international student, transfer student, in-state or out-of-state student. And remember that financial aid availability remains the same whether the courses are offered in person or in a remote manner. I hope this information helps.

Jack Martin: Thank you. We have received questions from current students about their experience with remote learning. Professor Janes, we are now five weeks into a spring quarter being conducted remotely. From the view of the faculty and students that you and your colleagues are teaching, how do you think that transition has gone? And how are you measuring whether it's been successful?

Joseph Janes: Hi Jack. Yeah, it's halftime of spring quarter isn't it, week five of a ten week quarter. From my perspective I think this is gone about as well as could be expected. We've heard lots of great stories about the work that faculty have put in to reconfigure their classes for remote learning and all of the work that students have done to help make those classes be successful, and all of the support staff and the various departments and units, centrally, in the center for teaching and learning, the registrar's office and advising and student life, everybody has just really pulled together. I have heard from lots of friends and colleagues of faculty helping each other, cooperating, sharing great ideas and how to teach various different kinds of classes and different settings and what techniques are working. I think that is all just terrific and I was proud of the faculty when I took on the job as chair and I am even more proud now.

In terms of assessment, a lot of faculty did mid-quarter evaluation or are doing mid-quarter evaluations and I think we will learn a lot from that in terms of helping to make these classes go well in addition to future uses of remote virtual technologies. There will be end of quarter evaluations too. I think that will help us to continue to improve how we are doing things. And while I have a moment I want to speak to a handful of specific communities with just a few words.

First of all to my colleagues on the faculty, I want to thank you for your creativity, ingenuity, and persistence. We all know this great transition from one kind of teaching to another has been hard and with very little notice. People have pulled together and done incredible work, and thank you for that.

While we're talking about assessment, I would encourage us as faculty to spend a moment now to think about a variety of policies, procedures, and criteria that we use on a range of issues and think about adapting those to the current situation and to be a little bit more compassion and promote equity and inclusion for everybody. There are lots of mechanisms to do that in departmental meetings, in collective faculty councils. Use those mechanisms and opportunities to work together on those kinds of policies and procedures. I also want you to know that shared governance is continuing to function. We just had a senate meeting yesterday. We went over a number of changes to scholastic regulations. We and the senate leadership have been engaged with administration on a number of levels over the last several months that we have been included and consulted and we have contributed to the decision-making process. A strong tradition of shared governance continues.

On behalf of my colleagues on the faculty I want to speak to the students for just a second. As Denzil just said to our new students, to our newest Huskies and your families, I just want to thank you for choosing us, I want to thank you for trusting us. Please know that everybody here is working super hard to make your experience the best it can be. We can't wait to have you be a part of our community this fall and we are really looking forward to welcoming you.

And to our current students, we know this is hard. We know how hard you are working and in many cases many of you are working in circumstances that are far from ideal, we appreciate it. I was on campus yesterday afternoon for a while and our campus is still beautiful but not half as beautiful as it is with all of you. People walking in and out of Kane, people studying in the libraries, people sitting at the tables in Mary Gates, eating at the HUB, tabling on Red Square, we miss you. We miss you desperately and we can't wait until we can all be together again.

Jack Martin: Great, thank you. Provost Richards, we also received questions from students and families about tuition. They asked since classes are online this quarter why has tuition not been reduced for out-of-state students or just in general?

Provost Richards: Thank you for that question. We get that question a lot from both parents and students and it is quite understandable. This hits close to home. I have one daughter who was a senior in high school and one daughter who is a senior in college both of whom have not only had to abruptly find that they are learning online 100%, but they miss their friends. We are not celebrating their graduations and they are not getting to enjoy senioritis with their friends that they've gone to school with for so long. It is very disorienting and disruptive and a disturbing time for students in all of our schools and colleges in this country.

In terms of the transition to remote learning, it is very challenging. I have to say that I am incredibly proud of the University of Washington faculty as Professor Janes and President Cauce have said. I am also very proud of our students. We get lots of feedback about concerns that students have about the accessibility of courses and difficulties are having tracking remote instruction. Feedback and those concerns, I have to say, have been constructive and respectful in ways that frankly make it easier for us to respond constructively and address the problems. I really want to say that there has been an incredible effort and diligence to make this work. Of the over 7,000 courses that we normally teach in a typical spring quarter, I think we only lost about 175 of them which comes to about 2.5% of our courses some of which just cannot be done remotely. That is an amazing accomplishment.

I will not pretend that the overall quality of instruction remotely is the same especially on such short notice as it might've been in person. But I can tell you that the cost of instruction has actually increased and not decreased because many measures we've had to take on very short notice to make this all work. We do have to pay our faculty and staff the same as before. And so the ability to remediate tuition would be extremely limited.

The other point I want to make, this question of why are you still charging out-of-state or nonresident students more tuition for remote instruction, I want to point out that the out-of-state nonresident tuition represents the true cost of education at the University of Washington. Resident students are paying lower tuition, the taxpayers are paying for the state contribution to their education. That is really not related in anyway directly to remote instruction or what people might think would come into play.

We have reduced some fees. We have eliminated the UPASS, the public transportation fee for students. We have eliminated late tuition payment fee and the reenrollment fee for students who took off the spring quarter and plan to reenroll in the fall or winter. Those are small amounts admittedly but hopefully they will be considered in good faith.

Jack Martin: Great, thank you. We have received a lot of questions about commencement. As folks know, the restrictions on large-scale events mean that we won't hold commencement in June for thousands of graduates and their families. Vice President Suite, why is UW not planning an in person ceremony for this class as soon as it is safe to hold it like some other universities say they plan to do as early as this summer?

Denzil Suite: I would say postponing the in person ceremony is one of the hardest, most disappointing decisions that we have made. If you ask the faculty and staff on campus to pick their favorite day, it would be graduation hands down. Yet we knew that doing actually two ceremonies was the right course of action for the health and safety of our students, parents, grandparents and in some cases great-grandparents and others who attend our ceremony. I want you to know before we made this decision we did consult with others, including student leaders on the provost advisory council, academic leadership, regents, the office of ceremonies, public health officials and others. They all agreed that we simply could not predict when it will be safe or feasible for thousands of people to gather in person. You heard Dean Godwin note earlier, that restrictions on large public gatherings will not end anytime soon.

Logistics of an event of this size that attracts 50-60,000 people means it cannot be scheduled and then canceled without months of planning and not to mention the travel limitations that many will face in the months ahead. In addition to virtual live ceremony for all three campuses which I might point out will include a Twitch stream option that will allow us to cut to your location and see you celebrating with your immediate family in real-time, 2020 graduates will be fully recognized in person in 2021 when it is safe to have these large gatherings on their campuses.

It is important to note that if enough graduates from the class of 2020 want to return to the 2021 commencement ceremony, we are fully prepared to organize a second separate ceremony. Whatever we decide, student leaders will be involved. We will also survey graduating students to help us make that decision, so stay tuned. It's also possible between now and then departments and schools may wish to honor their graduates in their own ceremonies as has been done in the past. All of this will follow public health guidance. The key take away is that 2020 graduates will have two ceremonies and we hope everyone will attend both.

Jack Martin: Thank you. I would like to stay with you. We did receive a number of questions about emergency aid for students. Obviously the economic crisis is affecting students and their families. I wonder if you, Vice President Suite could talk about the financial assistance available for students from the university as well as the CARES funding from the federal government.

Denzil Suite: Sure. Financial aid packages including the Husky Promise are still in effect. Our commitment to our students remains unwavering. We've been providing emergency aid to students from existing aid programs on all three campuses. I encourage students to visit the dedicated emergency aid site for more information.

We also have the CARES act grants you mention from the federal government which prioritize low and lower-middle income students based on the information on their financial aid application. CARES act funding is available for undergrads, grads, and professional students. And UW is using the CARES funds by issuing standardized relief grants of \$1200 per student or an additional \$500 or \$1700 for students with dependents. And this is all based on the family income reported on your FAFSA. While CARES funds don't apply to international undocumented non-matriculated students enrolled in distance only degree programs, will provide grants to undocumented students, international students and others who meet the same criteria. And so if you did not receive a CARES act grant and believe you are eligible or if your financial needs have changed as many have, please contact the financial aid office.

And remember that for anyone who needs food assistance, the UW pantries are providing free food to anyone with a Husky card on all three campuses. Finally, and as you heard, the President mentioned she has asked that we establish an employee aid fund that will be coming online shortly and more details will be forthcoming from UW human resources.

Jack Martin: Great, thank you. Professor Janes, if you wanted to jump in here.

Joseph Janes: I just want to follow up on Denzil's comments about commencement. As he was speaking he said commencement was the one day on campus that everybody, faculty, staff that everybody looks forward to. As he was saying that I could see smiles on everybody else's faces. He's absolutely right and there's no better day than commencement and one of the saddest parts of all of this is that we are not going to be able to have the kind of commencement that we all expected to have in Husky Stadium. It's an extraordinary day, I have great students who are going to graduate and I am going to miss them and hug them for all their works in Husky Stadium.

What I would encourage our students to do is to participate in the virtual ceremony but it's going to be different like everything is different right now. And to please, please, please, please come back. If there is any way for you to come back so that we can have another ceremony for you next year, please do it. The idea of having two ceremonies. Imagine the ovation you'll get when we do another 2020 commencement for you. It's going to be an extraordinary thing, please, please. It's a moment in your lives that you'll never forget and the opportunity to do it with you in person next year would be just amazing.

Jack Martin: President Cauce did you want to jump in.

President Cauce: I wanted to tell a personal story in terms of a delayed graduation so to speak. I had already taken a job before I totally completed my Ph.D. I was already working elsewhere when my graduation was to happen. For financial reasons it did not make sense for me to return. It was my first year as a faculty member at the University of Washington, about 33-34 years ago and I got to march as a marshal. My mother came up with me and we took our picture at the fountain and my graduation portrait is at the University of Washington. And I can tell you, even though it was 3 years after I graduated, walking down, having my mom with me and taking a picture, it was really, really meaningful and I hope that our students, they won't be doing it alone like it did, they will be doing that together with their classmates. And I can just tell you that the roar of applause that the class of 2020 will get when they walk across in spring 2021 will just be amazing. So please, you are the class of 2020, so you have two built in to your name. You have two graduations coming and we will be there.

Jack Martin: Great. Thank you all. I want to get to one of the questions that have come in over the course of the town hall. We have talked about autumn quarter and there's a question here about the B term of summer quarter. Provost Richards are you able to address when we will know the plans for B term of summer quarter whether that will be remote instruction as the a term and full term courses have been?

Provost Richards: Let me start by saying there is always a decision timeline that we face and those timelines are difficult to determine. We are in unprecedented times. We made the decision a few weeks ago that the summer session would have to begin remotely as well as, there are two, there is a full summer session and then as summer A and a summer B which are roughly half the duration of the full summer session. As far as summer session a we had to make a decision it would be remote

and in retrospect that has probably worked out pretty well and will work out well. However, we did at the time maintain that as conditions change, the summer B session might provide some opportunities for in person instruction, especially for smaller groups and smaller classes, classes that involve laboratory, or practicum or clinical experiences and so forth. We are sticking with that hope that we will be able to convene some of those classes in the summer B session and perhaps make up for some of the things that were lost in the spring quarter.

As for fall quarter as President Cauce began this whole Q&A, we are going to have the University of Washington in session for the fall quarter. We do not know what fraction of our courses will be remote and which will be in person. We are hoping to have as many and person as good health guidelines allow. It is difficult to imagine convening very large lecture courses with the knowledge we have right now but we have full flexibility and some time to make that decision. We are at somewhat of an advantage at the University of Washington because our fall quarter begins late September and frankly other universities will be experimenting in advance of us with how to convene that fall quarter.

In terms of a decision timeline we have spoken of trying to make decisions as well as possible for fall quarter by probably the end of June or July. That is not firm, because we are living in a world that is changing around us very rapidly. But simultaneously, we are hoping to construct both summer session B and the fall quarter not only to offer courses we normally offer, but to keep in mind courses that may have fallen by the wayside in this crisis where students need certain course requirements to graduate or make good progress toward the degrees and fill prerequisites and so forth. We are undertaking literally an inventory of the thousands of courses offered by the three campuses at the University of Washington and beginning the process of course by course trying to figure out what the various scenarios are and what we can offer and how we can make up for lost ground in the process.

I would like to perhaps invite Professor Godwin, our Dean of the School of Public Health, to comment on what I said about decision timelines. I'm a geophysicist and she's a public health expert. You probably will get more information from her than from me on what I said about the decision timeline for fall quarter.

Hilary Godwin: Thank you, Mark. As you have heard, we are trying to make the best decisions that we can in a time of great uncertainty. The path forward for that is doing these detailed scenario building. Taking advantage of the fact that we have a long lead time until fall quarter. We remain committed to doing what is best for the public health and safety of our students. And acknowledging that we are in a time of uncertainty. I guess I would say for the answer to that, stay tuned recognizing we know people want to hear something sooner rather than later.

Jack Martin: Thank you, both. Professor Janes, another topic of interest was around students' academic progress. Can you talk about what the university is doing to make sure that the crisis does the least amount of damage to student's GPAs and their academic careers in the future such as getting into majors, graduate schools?

Joseph Janes: I have a very high tech visual aid here to explain what we are thinking about. This is a kind of stuff you get at moments like this. It's an asterisk kind of quarter in a lot of different ways. The short answer is we are working on ways, the faculty senate actually yesterday passed a couple of things that will change the scholastic regulations that will make life easier on students in a number of ways both currently and ongoing. That work is continuing, more is coming.

We recognize, everybody knows, let's just be honest about this, everybody knows this is a quarter like no other and a time like no other in the careers of students and also in the careers of faculty. To the extent any of us can, and I think I speak for all of us, we want to do whatever we can to hold everyone harmless this quarter. Recognizing the kind of uniqueness of the situation. And it's not unique to us, it's all over the country and all over the world. We all know that everybody is experiencing these kinds of obstacles. From the faculty perspective, the provost's office announced people approaching tenure decisions will have a chance to delay their clock for a year, that's a tremendous opportunity, we are very pleased about that.

I would also say to all of my colleagues and the departments and units for all different kinds of personnel decisions, promotion decisions, etc. Thinking now about the kind of language you want to put in solicitation letters, for promotions, we all need a little grace at this point. I think that is time well spent. Again, those kinds of things that we can do to give each other a little bit of space and give each other some understanding about the situation on behalf of the students and on behalf of the faculty. The more we can have a sense of grace and compassion about all of this, the better off we are.

Jack Martin: President Cauce...

President Cauce: As Professor Janes was saying, we know each other quite well, I think it is important that there is some things that we cannot control. The virus, we are still learning new things about it all the time. It is novel and we call it novel for a reason. There are things that we can control. We can choose to be compassionate. We can choose to be kind. And that is what this order is all about. People are not going to forget 2020. When they are judging you and your body of work whether you're a faculty member or a student, I really do believe they will do so with the ultimate compassion and kindness and quite frankly, if they don't, you do not want to go there.

Hilary Godwin: Just to echo that, I have been hearing from students in my school and I am sure it's true in others, that they are getting stressed out right now. It is midterms and is not surprising. That's a lot of additional stress on top of an extraordinarily stressful situation.

And I would just encourage all of the students in the audience whether you're currently Huskies or prospective Huskies to be compassionate to yourself as well and understand that the rest of us understand fully what you're going through and are being compassionate with you. Be kind to yourself the same way you would be kind to your best friend who is unquestionably going through the same thing as well and take good care of yourself. Get good sleep. Get out there and enjoy the beautiful sunshine with social distancing this weekend. Enjoy nature. Connect with the people that you love. Support each other but also take good care of yourself. This is an unprecedented and difficult time.

Jack Martin: Thank you. Professor Janes you wanted to add something?

Joseph Janes: Just one quick thing on top of all of that great advice from Hilary Godwin. For current students in our classes this quarter, as I mentioned, people are doing mid-quarter evaluations. You can help your faculty to help you by helping them to understand your situation and circumstances. If there is something in your class working well, tell your faculty. If there is something that could be done differently or better that would help you, tell your faculty. That is the only way they will know that making a change on a canvas site, changing the way they record their lectures, helping them, giving them ideas and suggestions and helping them to understand that is going to enable them to do a much better job on your behalf and everyone will benefit so please share that in a constructive and thoughtful and professional way. Your faculty will really appreciate that.

Jack Martin: Great. Thank you all. We have time for one more question because we are coming up here on noon. This will be for Vice President Suite. We have had some questions come in during the broadcast about housing. Can you provide some guidance to both current students and incoming students about whether they should apply for campus housing on one of our campuses for the fall?

Denzil Suite: I can speak mostly to the Seattle campus but I believe this is true for all three. You should continue to apply for housing in the normal fashion. We have already started the returning resident process. Students who currently have agreements with us are in the process of signing up again for next year. Shortly after, in the next week information will be opened for students to start reserving spaces in housing.

We anticipate being able to house students but the configuration of what that will look like is still being developed. We do have a few spaces with shared bathrooms but most of our spaces have private baths for two or three individuals. The bottom line, keep applying and for the new students, apply when the application process opens and we will be in constant contact with you throughout the summer.

Jack Martin: Great. Thank you. That is all the time that we have. We're coming up on noon. I want to remind folks that if you missed part of the broadcast you can watch a replay at washington.edu/President/townhall. We are planning additional town halls including one focused on student questions so please stay tuned for more details on those. You can find answers to many questions about COVID-19 and the university's response to the pandemic at uw.edu/coronavirus. You will find links to resources for students and employees and information on upcoming webinars by UW faculty and details on how UW experts are contributing to the fight against the coronavirus. Thank you to all of our panelists and to everyone who submitted a question and to all of you for watching. Stay safe, and go Huskies.