

From: faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu> on behalf of UCCS Announcements Do Not Reply <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:26 PM
To: faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>
Subject: [faculty-l] Faculty Assembly President's Report

Message from:

Mary Coussons-Read - mcousson@uccs.edu

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you and yours staying home, staying safe, and doing well. The last few weeks have been unprecedented, and I want to express my deep admiration for all you have done and are doing to continue to meet the multiple challenges we currently face and will face in the coming weeks. Thank you.

Our next Faculty Assembly meeting will be held in Teams this Friday from 12-2pm. Among our topics for this meeting are recent elections, FCQs, and ongoing policy revisions. We will also be joined by the Chancellor, the Provost, and other guests to discuss not only current events but also the ongoing work of the University. Because many issues that would typically be in my report will be discussed at the meeting, I will focus this report on a question I've received from many folks- "What about Commencement?"

Commencement is one of the most wonderful parts of being a faculty member, and many of us look forward every year to congratulating our students in person during winter and spring commencement. Under the current circumstances, the campus has made the difficult decision as you know to move to a single online ceremony. This in no way means that faculty cannot participate especially by congratulating students. Andrea Cordova, UCCS Commencement Director, shared the following information with me, I'm happy to pass it along to you and encourage you to share it with your constituencies.

"[The campus] is working with Media Services to create an official Commencement video that includes the elements of a "normal" ceremony, including conferring of degrees; this video will air at 1:00 p.m. on May 15. Immediately following that video, we are directing graduates to college-specific videos which will include recognition of them -- alphabetically within degree, in alphabetical degree order, starting with doctoral (if that college has doctoral), then Master's degrees and finally baccalaureate degrees.

Graduates have been invited to upload photos which we will use with their names in a montage format.

All videos will comprise a live chat feature during their initial launch on May 15. [Faculty are encouraged] to watch the main video followed by their college-specific video in order to use the real-time chat function to provide "shout-outs" during degree recognition and individual graduate recognition. As we all know, the cancellation of the in-person ceremony this Spring is very disappointing to our graduates, so the more engagement we can drum up in the virtual world, the better."

Although not ideal, this does provide us with a way to recognize the students with whom we have been working and for whom we know this ceremony and this day is the culmination of years of effort and commitment. I hope you will join me in taking this opportunity to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our graduates!

Respectfully,

Mary

Mary Coussons-Read PhD

Professor of Psychology

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