

July 17, 2020

WIGs, Whirlwinds, 180s

We started off the year talking about WIGs and whirlwinds. We are in the middle of the whirlwind now, and how. The 180's are not slowing down either. Just this week, we have had the Homeland Security/ICE proclamation and reversal impacting our international students. And in the past two days, we have seen the Rock Hill School Board pass a plan only to have the Governor challenge its basic premises, a back-and-forth that continues to play out across the state as local school systems consider how best to respond to meet the needs in their local communities.

Given the strength of the whirlwind we are all experiencing, the timing of our Town Hall yesterday could not have been better. Many thanks for the **423+** of you who logged in at some point during our conversation yesterday. Interim President Hynd, the other VPs, and I were all excited to speak directly to the campus community about the results of hours and hours of discussion, research, and planning. We answered a good number of the submitted questions and then opened the chat for additional questions and answers. We covered a lot of ground. I know I speak for all members of Senior Leadership in saying we appreciated your presence, your patience, your probing questions; the spirit of shared concern for the well-being of our entire campus community was palpable. The link to the session recording will be available soon, as will information on future town halls.

While we know there are many more conversations yet to come, we want you to know we are in this with you, we hear you, and we are putting our administrative toolkits to hyper-use in modeling next steps for the campus. We are using existing discussion and decision-making bodies, such as the Critical Incident Management Team and Senior Leadership, but also forming new constellations that respond to the changing demands of the moment. The "Space Force" team comprised of Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities, and Academic Affairs administrators and staff is a great example, focusing on changes to our schedule and the resulting reconfiguration of instructional spaces. The task force President Hynd appointed to recommend trigger points to the Board of Trustees and campus leaders to consider in determining whether and when to shift to remote learning again is another. We appreciate the time and dedication that all members of the campus are putting in to help operationalize new processes and brainstorm obstacles to our common goal: ensuring safety as we continue to realize our educational mission.

I want to close with a few more professional development opportunities from the free resources that colleagues across higher ed continue to develop.

[ShapingEDU's Learning \(Hu\)Man](#) begins next week, July 20-25, and provides a great resource for those faculty and staff looking to increase their digital teaching and learning toolkits. I love that the title has been updated to more inclusive language since I last shared information on this opportunity!



[Remote: the connected faculty summit](#) took place this week, also hosted by Arizona State University. The session content is available on the summit website through the end of the year (if you're willing to register to get some targeted communications). I encourage you to check out some of the session content on digital pedagogies, blended learning, and online learning and student engagement. The site also provides access to curated free resources.

From [EAB](#), staff and faculty who are considering how to strengthen current efforts on campus to re-imagine career preparation and employability for our students may be interested in this webinar taking place next week: [Connecting Employers and Students in a Virtual Career Services World](#), *Wednesday, July 21 at 2 p.m. ET*. The webinar includes a panel discussion on recruiting and relationship-building activities, student and employer preparation, and promoting access and equity.

And please remember to look to EAB as a resource for your daily job functions as well. Through our global partnership, all employees can login to their website and look for white papers, diagnostics, and webinars in areas that concern you and your work. They also created a [resource center](#) on COVID-19 response planning specifically that may be helpful to you in your area. If you've never logged on before, your email is your username. You will be prompted to create a password and then you can start exploring!

From [ACUE](#), the Association of College and University Educators, I'd like to make you aware of a few resources:

- [Online Teaching Toolkit](#)
- [Inclusive Teaching Practices Toolkit](#)

ACUE is an organization I hope to partner with more in the future, as they provide supports to faculty in developing active learning strategies that improve student achievement and close equity gaps. Stay tuned for more!

Have a great weekend, everyone.

Best,

Adrienne

