



April 6, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As we head into the spring semester's final weeks and transition to fully online instruction and finals following spring break, I want to share a few updates and important reminders.

As a follow up to President Currall's earlier [communication](#) regarding the [academic calendar](#), I'd like to remind you that, in order to mitigate any potential resurgence of COVID-19 across the USF community following spring break, April 12 – 18, 2021, all faculty members and students should transition to remote instruction for the final weeks of this semester.

Additionally, and in accordance with USF Policy 10-005, April 26-30 is a test-free week, with April 30 being the last day of spring classes and final exams scheduled for May 1-6. Please do not plan final examinations outside of the scheduled window for your class(es). For your convenience, the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee campus examination schedules can be found [here](#), and the St. Petersburg campus examination schedule can be found [here](#).

As of March 15, the posting of final grades opened and will remain so until May 11 for timely submission; please be sure to submit all final grades during this window. I would also encourage you to pay careful attention to midterm grades, to identify and reach out to students who may not be on track for timely progression and graduation. Recent trends have suggested that this may be a concern for some of our students, and we know that faculty outreach and referral can make the difference in connecting our students with the critical resources they need to persist and succeed.

As we look toward the summer and fall semesters I hope for a renewed sense of optimism and a gradual return to campus operations supporting the complementary experiences students gain from in-person learning and on-campus activities. As has been previously communicated and in support of USF's commitment to *student access for success*, the university is preparing to significantly increase the number of on-campus classes and activities in summer 2021, especially during Session B (currently scheduled to begin June 28) and the university is planning for a full return to on-campus classroom delivery and activities beginning fall 2021.

Continuing the shared responsibility demonstrated in mitigating the transmission of the COVID-19 virus throughout 2020 and into spring 2021, USF will carefully monitor public health conditions as we plan for a safe and supportive path forward.

At all times, we will be guided by the scientific advice of our public health and infectious disease experts at USF along with government agencies. Recognizing that public health conditions can change quickly, our faculty and staff should remain prepared to rapidly adapt, as needed.

In the meantime, please monitor our [coronavirus updates](#) for the most current guidance with regard to mitigation measures/ the protections and support resources in place for our campus communities and please, if you have not already taken the opportunity to do so, I encourage you to get [vaccinated](#).

Hopefully, you had the opportunity to read yesterday's announcement that as part of USF's Faculty Success initiative and in support of our newly consolidated university, we have formally united our skilled faculty and instructional and learning development professionals from across the university into *USF's Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning* (CITL). As we continue to progress with our multifaceted Faculty Success initiative, I am also pleased to share with you that Dr. Prithish Mukherjee has agreed to serve as executive coordinator ably supported by Dr. Brett Kemker, assistant coordinator. Once the university's budget position becomes clearer, we will consider establishing a more formal Office of Faculty Success with the appointment of a director.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at provost@usf.edu.

Thank you again for your dedication, creativity, and flexibility as you continue to serve our students' needs and advance your scholarly profile. Together we can look to a brighter future after what has been a most remarkable and challenging year.

Sincerely,

Ralph C. Wilcox

Provost & Executive Vice President
University of South Florida