Dear Faculty,

As the students begin to return to campus in the next week, I wanted to reach out to you with additional information about preparations for the fall semester. As those of you who are parents of school age children know, many of the public schools in the area have made the decision to begin the school year with remote instruction only. This includes the Norman and Oklahoma City Public School districts. We recognize the additional burden this places on faculty of school age children as you work to find the best solution for meeting your own work obligations and caring for your children. We are committed to supporting our faculty, staff and students as they seek to find the best possible care and instruction for their children during this difficult time. To this end, I would like to request your input on ways we can provide resources and support related to child care as we begin the fall semester. Today you will be receiving a survey to assess your child care needs. If relevant to you, please take the time to respond so that we can gain a better understanding of your needs and how best to put programs into practice. After collecting your concerns and suggestions, the Provost’s Office will announce the new resources to help provide additional support faculty, staff, and students. Meanwhile, please continue to check the faculty tab of the OU Together website, to which we will regularly add information and resources (https://www.ou.edu/together).

I would also like to provide additional information about PPE for instructional faculty including faculty who may be teaching on a course by course basis or have been hired recently. In the multitude of issues and challenges we are addressing, we haven’t always gotten everything right. One of these challenges is the system of distribution of PPE to some instructors and lecturers and Graduate Teaching Assistants. I regret any confusion or concern this has caused. PPE will be provided to all instructors in the classroom including GTAs. We are working to assemble welcome back bags with two cloth masks, several disposable masks, and other supplies for all instructors who have not yet received them. These will be distributed through your departments before classes begin. Meanwhile, your department will receive additional disposable masks for your use.

I know many of you are working hard to prepare your courses for the upcoming semester. Many thanks for your continued efforts on behalf of our students. As always, please feel free to reach out directly to me or other members of my team with your questions, thoughts, and concerns.

Warm wishes,

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