

May 22, 2020

Dear SESP faculty, staff, and graduate students,

Earlier today you received a message from the University describing plans for a phased return to campus. While we are missing the sense of community that is created by being together in a shared space, we have been amazed by how you have adjusted your teaching, research, and service at an astonishing pace. We want to thank you for your creativity and commitment and explain what “phased return” means for the SESP community.

- **Faculty, staff, and graduate students should continue to work remotely.** Research may be an exception, as stated in the University message. If you believe your research should be considered for approval to resume on campus — and have not yet heard from Jeanne Hughes, SESP assistant dean of research — please connect with her soon. The University is working on a plan to resume research involving human participants, but this research is currently not permitted on-site.
- Annenberg Hall remains dormant — air flow systems have been shut off, for example — but you always have incidental access to workspaces to pick things up. Faculty members teaching during the summer quarter are expected to continue teaching remotely. If you feel you must access campus facilities to teach your class, we will continue to require that you secure prior approval from the Dean’s Office; please connect with Laura Salus as needed.
- We ask that you work with us and the broader University to ensure the campus does not re-populate or densify more quickly than can be supported. That being said, we want to help our faculty and staff be as productive as possible while still prioritizing the health and safety of our communities. We will soon be reaching out for ideas on ways we can enhance our sense of community while remaining physically apart.

We feel immense gratitude for all you have done and continue to do in response to these changes. We look forward to the time when we can all reconvene together on campus. As always, please do let us know if there’s anything we can do to support you and your work.

With warm regards,

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