Dear SESP colleagues,

When we communicated our plans for Fall Quarter in September, we committed to following up with details on Winter Quarter by the end of Fall Quarter. As we look ahead to the start of Winter Quarter, the SESP operating plan will remain much the same, with the vast majority of the SESP community being advised to work remotely with intermittent/ad hoc access to campus from Jan. 4, 2021 through March 19, 2021.

The majority of SESP undergraduate and PhD program classes will continue to be offered remotely with some hybrid classes. Decisions about course delivery are made by the faculty instructor, and Winter Quarter course modes are noted in CAESAR. SESP professional master’s programs (MSEd, MSHE, MSLOC) will continue to offer their classes in remote formats.

Research staff may receive updated guidance from their supervisors/PI’s who plan to resume on-site research during Winter Quarter, but until this happens, they should plan to continue to work remotely according to the above guidance.

Beyond courses, we would like to recognize our faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to design academic, social, and support programs and experiences for our students that can be delivered in virtual formats. Of course, we wish we could all be together to have these community engagements in-person, but we are proud of the work everyone in SESP is doing to make the best of a bad situation.

As other operations, programs, and research continue to be conducted remotely, we know teams are missing those “hallway encounters” and spontaneous interactions with colleagues that mean so much to a work community. But we could not be more impressed with how hard SESP teams are working to offer great programs, to design new initiatives, to collaborate, and support each other.

As before, faculty and staff are not restricted from coming to campus. This update is about setting the tone for SESP operations. Prioritizing remote work helps us manage personnel density in SESP spaces and reduce risk. We will continue to follow University guidance and adapt or update as requirements change. It is also important to note that the University’s COVID-19 Alternative Work Arrangements Policy has been extended into winter terms.

Should you be on campus this winter in any capacity, please remember to:

- Complete the daily Symptom Tracker prior to your arrival every time you come to campus and follow the guidance from the tracker.
- Follow the procedures for positive cases of COVID-19, per University policy, if you receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or if you must self-isolate.
• Access information on free COVID-19 testing through the University by reviewing the [Winter Quarter testing message from Luke Figora](#) and visiting the [Faculty and Staff Testing webpage](#).

Given the information we have presently in hand, we intend to keep this schedule in place through March 19, 2021. However, operating needs as well as other internal and external factors will be reviewed periodically, and we reserve the right to modify the plan as needed. We hope to be in a position to have a Spring Quarter plan in place shortly before the end of Winter Quarter; we will provide an update by March 12, 2021.

This past year has presented an immeasurable amount of adversity, yet the appreciation we have for you as a community cannot be overstated. We admire the way you continue to move SESP forward – despite all that 2020 has presented. We hope the upcoming WinterRecess offers a restorative close to the year and leaves us ready to take on 2021.

Sincerely,

David N. Figlio  
Orrington Lunt Professor and Dean

Coleen Coleman  
Senior Associate Dean

Melissa Weidman  
Director of Administration