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Subject: Keep Teaching website + other available supports

Dear colleagues,

As you know, KPU will pause all instruction for the next two days to give us a little time to transition away from face-to-face course delivery for the remainder of the semester. This situation is unprecedented and, while certainly not optimal from a teaching and learning perspective, necessary in the interest of public health.

We recognize that this need to rapidly shift to online teaching and learning generates a lot of questions for faculty, which is why **we have developed [Keep Teaching](#)**, a website that we hope will address the majority of your questions and needs. That said, please remember it is optimal that you go with the least complicated route (for activities, technology, or assessments). Start with identifying the learning outcomes you need to complete. The website provides quick tips, strategies, and tools for moving teaching and learning resources (e.g., lectures and readings) and practices (e.g., activities and assessments) online. It also includes support and strategies for redesigning or accommodating teaching and learning activities that do not easily lend themselves to online delivery. **If you need support during this transition, please first visit [Keep Teaching](#).**

The Teaching & Learning Commons team will do our best to support you during this time. In addition to developing the Keep Teaching website (which we will continue to update with additional resources and guidance):

- **If you need support with learning technologies, educational media, or redesigning learning activities or assessments, [please complete this survey](#) to help us determine your needs and assign the appropriate team member to assist you.**
- We are scheduling virtual drop-in sessions, webinars, and other opportunities for training (**please note that tomorrow's drop-in session at KPU Surrey is now cancelled**). **Please visit the [Teaching & Learning Commons website](#) for a list of upcoming virtual training opportunities.**
- We have increased the bandwidth available on both Moodle and BigBlueButton to cope with the massive increase in demand; however, **we would like to urge you to *not* use synchronous video sessions as your first option**. Instead consider alternative approaches such as recording a narration for a slide deck or uploading brief video lectures that students can view asynchronously.
- We have been working with IT to help provide access to faculty who may not own the necessary technology (e.g., a laptop or a webcam) to teach online. **If you need access to technology to support instructional continuity, [please submit your needs via this survey](#)** and a member of our team will get back to you.

KPU is fortunate to have a large number of our faculty who have experience using learning technology. At this time we are asking for faculty who are willing to help support our community to volunteer to serve as an additional resource for their peers. We know this is asking a lot when you will also be occupied with your own challenges, but your experience will be extremely valuable and reassuring to your colleagues. **If you are interested in volunteering for peer support, please send us an email at tlcommons@kpu.ca**

One final note:

Teaching online can be as engaging, interactive, and effective as face-to-face classes when course instructors have time to design and prepare their lessons, and when they and their students have time to master the learning technologies that support online instruction. That is not the situation here. You're being asked to quickly shift from face-to-face to remote teaching. You may not be able to expertly integrate learning outcomes, assessments, and instructional strategies, all through unfamiliar technologies. And that's okay.

Right now, let's concentrate on what's important: communication, flexibility, and compassion.

Our goal right is to give you enough support and resources to finish the semester. Resources and support for designing effective online courses will follow later.

Remember, you're not alone.

Friends and colleagues are feeling the same anxiety and facing the same challenges, so reach out to find – and give – support. The (small but mighty) Teaching & Learning Commons team is ready to respond to your questions and requests.

We will get through this period by pulling together.

Thank you very much,
Rajiv



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At KPU, we work, study, and live in a region south of the Fraser River which overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semihamoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlen peoples.