



Manawatū Humanities & Business Students Meeting

Friday 8 May 2020, meeting opened 11.30am

In attendance from UCOL

Jerry Sherman - Executive Director Applied Education and Research

Christine Beech – Director Public Relations and Communication

Dean Rankin - Executive Dean Humanities & Business

Leanna Burnett - Head of School - Business and ICT

Bridget Percy - Head of School – Education

Victoria Campbell - Head of School Creative

Sylvie Hickton – Health and Safety

Victoria Blockley-Powell – Student Success Senior Manager

Teina Mataira - Pouarahi Maori and Pacific Peoples Education

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We've now had the Government announcement about what Alert Level 2 will look like. UCOL is working through this and working out what this means for us. A formal position to students will go out on Monday. Broadly, a number of documents and agencies are informing UCOL's work. We also get advisories from the Ministry of Education.

Where we look at landing at the moment, is that we have had a plan for a way of delivering for the remainder of semester 1 - delivering remotely. The primary driver for this is student and staff wellbeing. Even with the social distancing requirement of 1 metre, it still means that space in our physical rooms is at best reduced by 50%. There will be a phased return to campus, but exceptions will be considered by Deans. We are very aware of social aspects but we will have to manage that very carefully. We will be getting out communications as soon as we can.

It is important we have procedures etc. in place – signing into campus etc.

We know students are struggling with access and ICT issues. We are looking at how we can facilitate some level of access to mitigate this.

Our plan is about making sure that people have access to the right software for practice and for assessments. So we're looking at running practical sessions and assessments on campus, with online learning in place where possible. We are still planning.

With the Technology Access Fund, we're looking at getting something like Chromebooks and taking some of the money for student connectivity issues. This should put us in a position to look at getting further information out next week. However every learning institution in New Zealand is trying to access devices.

We're into second week of remote teaching. It has been difficult. The first week was particularly hard with students struggling with connecting and Moodle issues. The second week has been better. But any issues, please get hold of staff – communication is absolutely key; communicate how you're

feeling and your concerns. A study on Level 4 likens this situation to home detention – it's very normal to feel differently from week to week in terms of anxiety, confidence, motivation, etc.

Please keep in contact with us. Let us know what's going on so we can support you. Keep communication up with all lecturers; they need to know where you're at in your studies. We can put plans in place so long as communication is kept up. Staff and students are going through all the emotional impact of lockdown. Student Success have been providing great support. Keep an eye out for communications coming out. Be aware that we know that this is unusual and difficult. We do understand that you may be concerned that you're not excelling, but we can help you cope.

In the current environment, all student support services are still in place including academic support, the library team for resources, counselling, and financial hardship. We can help you and we're here to do this for you. We acknowledge this is a very hard time for you but reach out to us. We will be on campus in a limited way during Level 2, available via appointment and will continue to provide online support. Please reach out to us. We're here to help. We'll send out more communications as soon as we have more information to hand.

When you come back onto campus, you will notice differences; lots of signage up and only one entrance into campus. Unless you're going to class you will have to sign in and out of campus. These are part of contact tracing requirements. So we ask all students to ensure contact details are up to date. This means you don't need to include them when you sign in.

Lots of hand sanitising will be available, including top-ups for students' small bottles. Cleaning has been upped, especially in high contact area. If you're using a computer, there will be a lot of alcohol wipes around. All staff and students will be asked to keep campus as hygienic as possible, by wiping down surfaces as you go. Good hygiene will help with COVID but also general flu season.

It is not a prerequisite to wear a mask on campus. The Ministry of Health is however currently doing a review and guidance on masks. At present, this guidance is indicating that only health services are required to wear masks.

Remember, if we know about it we can do something. There are lots of people that can help you. Hang in there. UCOL's job is to help support you to complete your qualifications.

Follow communications. Only come to campus when you have this communication from your lecturing staff.

Answers to Student Questions/Discussions

- What is the phased approach to returning to camps?
A – Priority will be given to practical programmes and those who need to finish their qualifications.
- I'm very concerned that learning is very impacted by this. Is it a possibility to retake that paper semester one of next year?
A – Our preference is that students continue with their papers. There is lots that we can do to support and help you catch up. If you have any concerns about progress or if you need

more time or support, please let your Program Leaders know. We will be running on campus practicals and tutorials to help accelerate learning and catch students up.

We are intending on working with students on an individual basis, but please get in touch with us too. We want to hear what you need. We know it's really hard - don't disengage, come and see us.

- I'm concerned that semester one coming to an end.
A – We do have scope to catch students up, to provide support and extra time.
- I will need to take up another loan to catch up on papers missed out.
A – Please talk to your programme leader prior to doing this.
- How many phases of classes would need to be run to break down a class to appropriate size?
A - We will be concentrating on focusing on priority classes (practicals etc.), where we need to be on campus. We will break into as many streams as required to comply with guidelines. This may mean changes to timetables.
- Will there be sign ins at the doors of Blocks 7 and 9?
A – This is so we comply with contact tracing. If you're coming to a class, you will just go to where you need to be and be signed in via register in class.
- Can we not just swipe in for contact tracing?
A– No. We have to have more detailed information than this provides, because we need to be able to know exactly where you've been on campus. So this information will be automatically generated by the attendance app.

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Students, what are your expectations when you come back on campus? For us it's all about controls and mitigating risk.

Student response - My main concern over class size.