

Re: FS Task Force on the Impact of University's Switch to Online Classes - Spring 2020

jeanbaileyphd@aol.com <jeanbaileyphd@aol.com>

Sat 3/28/2020 2:27 PM

To: Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>; Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>; Jackson, James T. <jt_jackson@Howard.edu>

Cc: King, Eleanor M. <emking@Howard.edu>; Arhin, Stephen A. <saarhin@Howard.edu>; Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; Sobrian, Sonya K. <ssobrian@Howard.edu>; Morris, Vernon R. <vmorris@Howard.edu>; Tharakan, John P. <jtharakan@Howard.edu>; Carmichael, Jacqueline L <jacqueline.carmich@Howard.edu>; Middendorf III, George A. <gmiddendorf@Howard.edu>; O'Neil, Jahn N. <jahn.oneil@Howard.edu>; Smith, Sonya T. <ssmith@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Krista M <KMJohnson@Howard.edu>; Kumar, Krishna <kkumar@Howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kavoossi, Masoud <mkavoossi@Howard.edu>; Robinson, Courtney J <courtney.robinson@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Shameka N <shameka.n.johnson@Howard.edu>; Ramberan, Jami E <jami.ramberan@Howard.edu>; Farquharson, Andre' A. <afarquharson@Howard.edu>; Lawrence, Leslie M. <lmlawrence@Howard.edu>; Hopson, Ronald <rhopson@Howard.edu>

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Hi All,

Great observations.

I suggest that this would be a task for the Academic and Health Affairs Committee -- Reps from each School/College/unit are on Committee. Could be augmented by representatives from Council such as Mercedes and James.

Jean Bailey, Ph.D.
Chair
Governance Committee
jeanbaileyphd@aol.co

-----Original Message-----

From: Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>

To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>; Jackson, James T. <jt_jackson@Howard.edu>

Cc: King, Eleanor M. <emking@Howard.edu>; Arhin, Stephen A. <saarhin@Howard.edu>; Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; Sobrian, Sonya K. <ssobrian@Howard.edu>; Morris, Vernon R. <vmorris@Howard.edu>; Tharakan, John P. <jtharakan@Howard.edu>; Carmichael, Jacqueline L <jacqueline.carmich@Howard.edu>; Middendorf III, George A. <gmiddendorf@Howard.edu>; O'Neil, Jahn N. <jahn.oneil@Howard.edu>; Smith, Sonya T. <ssmith@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Krista M <KMJohnson@Howard.edu>; Kumar, Krishna <kkumar@Howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kavoossi, Masoud <mkavoossi@Howard.edu>; Robinson, Courtney J <courtney.robinson@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Shameka N <shameka.n.johnson@Howard.edu>; Ramberan, Jami E <jami.ramberan@Howard.edu>; Farquharson, Andre' A. <afarquharson@Howard.edu>; Lawrence, Leslie M. <lmlawrence@Howard.edu>; Hopson, Ronald <rhopson@Howard.edu>; jeanbaileyphd@aol.com <jeanbaileyphd@aol.com>; Grant, Bradford C. <bcgrant@Howard.edu>; christi cunningham <christicunningham@gmail.com>; Alayan, Kristina J <kristina.alayan@law.howard.edu>; Davila-Garcia, Martha I. <mdavila-garcia@Howard.edu>; Littleton, George <glittleton@Howard.edu>; Castor, Chimene <chimene.castor@Howard.edu>; Okunji, Priscilla O. <priscilla.okunji@Howard.edu>; Akala, Emmanuel O <eakala@Howard.edu>; Drame, Imbi L <imbi.drame@Howard.edu>; Edwards, Janice B. <janice.edwards@Howard.edu>; Liu, Meirong <meirong.liu@Howard.edu>; McSwain, Alexander T <amcswain@Howard.edu>; Franklin, Michael J <michael.franklin@bison.howard.edu>; McClung, Monique Y <monique.mcclung@Howard.edu>; Howell, Rachel V <rachel.howell@bison.howard.edu>; Burke, Kylie E <kylie.burke@bison.howard.edu>; Taylor Ellison <ellisonmtaylor@gmail.com>; Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>

Sent: Sat, Mar 28, 2020 10:40 am

Subject: RE: FS Task Force on the Impact of University's Switch to Online Classes - Spring 2020

James, Marcus, and all other colleagues,

Let me say first that the idea is great, but I do not want to be [co]Chair of the Task Force. James has not agreed yet to be Chair, either.

Council members should

1. identify one or two faculty member/s [no need to be a Council member] who volunteer to be [co]Chair. Ideally, s/he/they should have some experience on online teaching, to lead all of us
2. identify faculty members in their Schools/Colleges who might want to participate in the Task Force

I would suggest that those interested write to the officers, to James, and to me. Let's see where we can go from here.

Mercedes

From: Alfred, Marcus

Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:19 AM

To: Jackson, James T. <jt_jackson@Howard.edu>

Cc: Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>; King, Eleanor M. <emking@Howard.edu>; Arhin, Stephen A. <saarhin@Howard.edu>; Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; Sobrian, Sonya K. <ssobrian@Howard.edu>; Morris, Vernon R. <vmorris@Howard.edu>; Tharakan, John P. <jtharakan@Howard.edu>; Carmichael, Jacqueline L <jacqueline.carmich@Howard.edu>; Middendorf III, George A. <gmiddendorf@Howard.edu>; O'Neil, Jahn N. <jahn.oneil@Howard.edu>; Smith, Sonya T. <ssmith@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Krista M <KMJohnson@Howard.edu>; Kumar, Krishna <kkumar@Howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kavoossi, Masoud <mkavoossi@Howard.edu>; Robinson, Courtney J <courtney.robinson@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Shameka N <shameka.n.johnson@Howard.edu>; Ramberan, Jami E <jami.ramberan@Howard.edu>; Farquharson, Andre' A. <afarquharson@Howard.edu>; Lawrence, Leslie M. <lmlawrence@Howard.edu>; Hopson, Ronald <rhopson@Howard.edu>; jeanbaileyphd@aol.com; Grant, Bradford C. <bcgrant@Howard.edu>; christi cunningham <christicunningham@gmail.com>; Alayan, Kristina J <kristina.alayan@law.howard.edu>; Davila-Garcia, Martha I. <mdavila-garcia@Howard.edu>; Littleton, George <glittleton@Howard.edu>; Castor, Chimene <chimene.castor@Howard.edu>; Okunji, Priscilla O. <priscilla.okunji@Howard.edu>; Akala, Emmanuel O <eakala@Howard.edu>; Drame, Imbi L <imbi.drame@Howard.edu>; Edwards, Janice B. <janice.edwards@Howard.edu>; Liu, Meirong <meirong.liu@Howard.edu>; McSwain, Alexander T <amcswain@Howard.edu>; Franklin, Michael J <michael.franklin@bison.howard.edu>; McClung, Monique Y <monique.mcclung@Howard.edu>; Howell, Rachel V <rachel.howell@bison.howard.edu>; Burke, Kylie E <kylie.burke@bison.howard.edu>; Taylor Ellison <ellisonmtaylor@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: FS Task Force on the Impact of University's Switch to Online Classes - Spring 2020

Hi James,

I think these are great. I'd be interested in attendance. How many of our students are signing in? How many are signing in and then walking away from their phone/computer? (We've reports of this happening)

James, can we move this to a different email thread for those that want to participate? Council members, if you'd like to participate, please reach out to James and Mercedes?

Thanks again,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred
Associate Professor
Howard University
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
Washington, DC 20059
202-806-6258

maralfred@howard.edu

From: Jackson, James T. <jt_jackson@Howard.edu>

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 5:13 PM

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Subject: Re: FS Task Force on the Impact of University's Switch to Online Classes - Spring 2020

Marcus,

I think there should be a representative from each of the schools. These individuals will be responsible for canvassing their faculty to ascertain information for a final report. My suggestion for questions to get the data is to have faculty answer the following or others that my surface from colleagues and the administration:

1. What were your challenges in transitioning from face-to-face/hybrid courses to a completely online courses?
2. Did the university administration provide enough support and resources?
3. What successes did you encounter with the switch from face-to-face/hybrid courses to online courses?
4. Do you have a sense of students' satisfaction or dissatisfaction about the switch? If so, what are students saying?
5. What suggestions and ideas do you have to help the university create a robust and sustainable online program for future growth?

I'm not married to any of these questions. They are just suggestions for now. Let me know what you think. JJ

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 27, 2020, at 3:55 PM, Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@howard.edu> wrote:

Awesome. Thank you! Also, please let me know who you all recruit as members? I'll help as best I can.

Thanks again,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred
Associate Professor
Howard University
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
Washington, DC 20059
202-806-6258
maralfred@howard.edu

From: Jackson, James T. <jt_jackson@Howard.edu>

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:50 PM

To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>; Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>

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Subject: Re: Middle States Site Visit

Marcus,

I will be happy to serve... not sure about chair yet, but will let you know by Monday of next week. JJ

From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:42 PM

To: Tibbits, Mercedes V.; Jackson, James T.

Cc: King, Eleanor M.; Arhin, Stephen A.; Kelly, Lynne J.; Sobrian, Sonya K.; Morris, Vernon R.; Tharakan, John P.; Carmichael, Jacqueline L; Middendorf III, George A.; O'Neil, Jahn N.; Smith, Sonya T.; Johnson, Krista M; Kumar, Krishna; Paschall, Samuel; Kavoossi, Masoud; Robinson, Courtney J; Johnson, Shameka N; Ramberan, Jami E; Farquharson, Andre' A.; Lawrence, Leslie M.; Hopson, Ronald; jeanbaileyphd@aol.com; Grant, Bradford C.; christi cunningham; Alayan, Kristina J; Davila-Garcia, Martha I.; Littleton, George; Castor, Chimene; Okunji, Priscilla O.; Akala, Emmanuel O; Drame, Imbi L; Edwards, Janice B.; Liu, Meirong; McSwain, Alexander T; Franklin, Michael J; McClung, Monique Y; Howell, Rachel V; Burke, Kylie E; Taylor Ellison
Subject: Re: Middle States Site Visit

Hi James and Mercedes,

Would you all be willing to chair and be a member of a different committee on creating a sustained

online program from lessons learned? Mercedes, if I'm not mistaken, we've asked twice now to be put on the schedule - but I'll ask again.

Thanks,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred
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From: Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Jackson, James T. <jt_jackson@Howard.edu>; Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Cc: King, Eleanor M. <emking@Howard.edu>; Arhin, Stephen A. <saarhin@Howard.edu>; Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; Sobrian, Sonya K. <ssobrian@Howard.edu>; Morris, Vernon R. <vmorris@Howard.edu>; Tharakan, John P. <jtharakan@Howard.edu>; Carmichael, Jacqueline L <jacqueline.carmich@Howard.edu>; Middendorf III, George A. <gmiddendorf@Howard.edu>; O'Neil, Jahn N. <jahn.oneil@Howard.edu>; Smith, Sonya T. <ssmith@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Krista M <KMJohnson@Howard.edu>; Kumar, Krishna <kkumar@Howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kavoossi, Masoud <mkavoossi@Howard.edu>; Robinson, Courtney J <courtney.robinson@Howard.edu>; Johnson, Shameka N <shameka.n.johnson@Howard.edu>; Ramberan, Jami E <jami.ramberan@Howard.edu>; Farquharson, Andre' A. <afarquharson@Howard.edu>; Lawrence, Leslie M. <lmlawrence@Howard.edu>; Hopson, Ronald <rhopson@Howard.edu>; jeanbaileyphd@aol.com <jeanbaileyphd@aol.com>; Grant, Bradford C. <bccgrant@Howard.edu>; christi cunningham <christicunningham@gmail.com>; Alayan, Kristina J <kristina.alayan@law.howard.edu>; Davila-Garcia, Martha I. <mdavila-garcia@Howard.edu>; Littleton, George <glittleton@Howard.edu>; Castor, Chimene <chimene.castor@Howard.edu>; Okunji, Priscilla O. <priscilla.okunji@Howard.edu>; Akala, Emmanuel O <eakala@Howard.edu>; Drame, Imbi L <imbi.drame@Howard.edu>; Edwards, Janice B. <janice.edwards@Howard.edu>; Liu, Meirong <meirong.liu@Howard.edu>; McSwain, Alexander T <amcswain@Howard.edu>; Franklin, Michael J <michael.franklin@bison.howard.edu>; McClung, Monique Y <monique.mcclung@Howard.edu>; Howell, Rachel V <rachel.howell@bison.howard.edu>; Burke, Kylie E <kylie.burke@bison.howard.edu>; Taylor Ellison <ellisonmtaylor@gmail.com>; Tibbits, Mercedes V. <mtibbits@howard.edu>
Subject: Middle States Site Visit

Colleagues,

I concur with James, about putting our experiences into creating good online classes.

On another note, I would strongly recommend that the Chair of the FS request that the Council of the FS be placed on the MSCHE site team's teleconference schedule ["... the physical site visit that was previously scheduled for April 15-17 will now be a virtual site visit within that same time period"].

The FS should act NOW to make this happen.

Thank you,

Mercedes

From: Jackson, James T.

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Marcus,

I'm wondering if this task force's charge might be a little late. It seems to me that this work/recommendations should have come before the decision to move to the online format. Having a task force address unintended consequences won't do much to help now. It seems to me that a better use of the task force would be to help the university create a sustained online program from lessons learned from our current situation. Just an opinion. Stay well everybody. J. Jackson

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 27, 2020, at 2:04 PM, Alfred, Marcus

<marAlfred@howard.edu<<mailto:marAlfred@howard.edu>>> wrote:

Hi Eleanor,

The task force's charge is to make recommendations to the council about telework/remote instruction at HU. But they would also make recommendations on the consequences of the administration and board's P/F decision. My guess is that the administration's implementation is going to have some bad unintended consequences.

I hope the task force can make recommendations that can help faculty minimize the damage from these and other telework/online learning consequences. I think we are all on the same page (?) - try to do the best with what we've got, while we watch this global tragedy slowly unfold.

Thanks for what you are doing. This thanks also goes to all the council, and both HUSA and HUSO leadership. I pray we all make really good decisions in the coming months.

Stay safe,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred

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From: King, Eleanor M. <emking@Howard.edu<<mailto:emking@Howard.edu>>>

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 12:31 PM

To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu<<mailto:marAlfred@Howard.edu>>>; Arhin, Stephen A.

<saarhin@Howard.edu<<mailto:saarhin@Howard.edu>>>; Kelly, Lynne J.

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Hi, back: If the administration is announcing its position today, then it would be the task of the entire FSC to react to that, in approval or not. That is, Dr. Wutoh already has our input for today's decision in the letter that you wrote. If the administration does not concur with what we supported, then we can have a discussion about that and decide what to do; if it implements the P/F plan, we can comment publicly about it, though, based on the current online discussion, a number of our more vocal colleagues will be incensed that we supported it (I don't understand their position myself, but that's a different discussion). In any case, I don't really see the point of us coming up with separate recommendations, as the decision will already have been made.

Am I missing something here?

best,

E.

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Good morning,

I think we might've got our wires crossed. Eleanor and Stephen, Dr. Wutoh said he'd announce the administration's position today. Let me know how you'd like to proceed? I'll put the task force together over the next week, and the charge is to make recommendations for the senate regarding telework/remote instruction. The consequences of the administration and board's position will be part of their charge.

Stay safe,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Awesome. Any other council members willing to participate?

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Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:00 PM

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Dr. Alfred: Count me in!!!

Dr. Stephen Arhin, PE, PTOE, PMP, CRA, Fellow ITE

Associate Professor, CEE Department

Director, Transportation Research Center

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From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu<mailto:marAlfred@Howard.edu>>

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:51 AM

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Thanks Eleanor,

I've no problem if folks on the council can move that fast. But it seems the senate works best when we take time to make thoroughly thought out decisions. Can this be done in a week?

We've seen way too many times the administration and board seem to move quickly and recklessly. Then when things start to fall apart, they "spin" and try to minimize the problems or pretend the problems don't exist.

We haven't really done that so far this year and I'd like to avoid that kind of mess if possible. But if some council members want to push and can get it done, I'm certainly not going to stand in their way. Can you and Dr. Arhin be part of the task force?

Best,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred

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Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:36 AM

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Hi, Marcus,

Understood. And those processes are fine. However, in the letter you mentioned getting a task force together next week. That's too late. We need to move on this now, if we want faculty voices to be heard. The end of the semester is only 4 weeks away and, according to the town meeting going on now, the administration wants to make a decision by the end of next week. That does not seem unreasonable, given the short time frame to the end of the semester.

In other words, I would suggest the task force be formed this week and plan to have recommendations by early next week that can be discussed and adopted by the FSC.

best,

E.

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Hi Eleanor,

Thanks. I know I'm saying something you already know, but the Senate officially speaks for the faculty according to our board approved documents. We've an independent voice from the administration.

Since faculty have primacy over academic concerns, the faculty voice should be the driver for academic decisions and policies.

That being said, the council can vote to make a recommendation on the issue (one way or the other). If the council recommendation is not inline with the will of the faculty, the faculty can vote to overturn the recommendation at the full senate meeting.

That's how I'd recommend this proceed in the senate - after getting recommendations from a senate task force on the issue.

Best,

Marcus

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Subject: Re: HUSA proposal and FS response

Hi, Marcus,

The Provost seems to be on top of this situation--as witness the conference call today, right now. Non FSC faculty members have chimed in with concerns about the P/F option, saying, among other things, that grades are given all the time in on-line courses and that we should not lower our academic standards. However, I think the problems were best expressed by one of our colleagues who pointed out that connectivity and computer access remain problems as well as the switch to on-line classes for students who had not planned on doing so.

best,

E.

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Subject: HUSA proposal and FS response

Good morning colleagues,

Please find the attached letter sent regarding the P/F option proposed by HUSA. I tried to capture the concerns mentioned as well as the general support from council members. In addition, I hope we got across that the senate will look carefully at this and other distance learning decisions and issues over the next few weeks for potential unintended consequences.

Also please note, since the HUSA and HUSO presidents are ex-officio members of the senate, I've cc'd HUSA's leadership and HUSO too. (Sorry, should have mentioned this last email)

Best and please stay safe,

Marcus

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