

Dear Colleagues:

Today's email touches on three teaching-and-learning related matters:

1. What we can learn about Course Outcomes from the Spring 2020 Student and Faculty Surveys
2. Revisiting Blended Learning
3. Reminder about upcoming open sessions and events

Please let me know if you have questions about any of the following.

All best,

Craig

### **1. Course Outcomes and the 2020 Student and Faculty Surveys**

In May 2021, the CTE sponsored two surveys: one for students and one for faculty, both concerning the remote-learning experience in the spring semester.

#### Results

In the **student survey**, students responded favorably to their instructors' approach to teaching in a remote environment and expressed a preference for a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities. They also reported some specific challenges associated with remote learning.

These findings touch on a finding from the **faculty survey**. It reported that, of all the aspects of fall 2021 preparations, the one the most (87%) respondents feel most confident in is their "ability to prioritize and articulate course outcomes suitable to a blended or remote environment."

#### A Confidence Gap

So, we have a divergence between faculty confidence and student confidence related to aspects of achieving course outcomes. To close this "confidence gap," I will elaborate two main approaches:

- The *Rhetorical Approach* emphasizes ways of intentionally and frequently updating students—individually and collectively—on their progress toward stated learning outcomes throughout the semester.
- The *Pedagogical Approach* offers ways of revising or reconceiving some of our usual disciplinary outcomes to account for the digitally-mediated environment our students

and we will encounter in the fall. It also suggest ways we might need to rethink our own role as experts as we pursue digitally-informed learning outcomes.

A more detailed discussion of survey results and their possible impact on how we frame and pursue course outcomes is attached here and is also available on the CTE's [Email and Video Archives](#).

## 2. Revisiting Blended Learning

I have been available for “drop-in” office hours every other Thursday; those conversations have addressed issues and questions those who join the sessions bring to the encounters.

This coming Thursday, however, I would like to focus specifically on **questions around managing the approaches to blended learning I outlined in the CTE email of Friday, July 10**. That email and the attached guidance is available in the [Email and Video Archives](#) on the CTE webpages.

If you have questions or concerns about how to manage the blend of virtual and in-person learning this coming fall, please join me [here](#) from 11-noon central time on Thursday, July 23.

## 3. Upcoming Sessions and Events

- On **Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**, The Baum Chair in Ethics in the Professions will host [Kevin Gannon](#), Director of Grand View University's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, to facilitate a hands-on planning workshop for faculty. Please plan to join us from 10 - 1 for this opportunity to think and talk about engaging students in remote and f2f learning in the contemporary context, with an equity, access, and place-based lens. Advance registration will enable us to place faculty in break-out group with departmental or unit cohorts, so that departments can use part of this time for focused planning, if it serves your purposes to do so. Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kevin-gannon-curriculum-planning-workshop-tickets-111674527518>. Recordings of this and other CTE-sponsored sessions are available for later viewing in the CTE's [Email and Video Archives](#).
- This coming **Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** and for alternating Thursdays through August 6<sup>th</sup>, I will be available from 11:00-noon on Microsoft Teams to answer questions about course design and pedagogy in a group setting as you plan for you fall courses. Please use the links below to drop in. The dates for these Thursday conversations times are:
  - [Thursday, July 23](#) (Focusing on Blended Learning questions)
  - [Thursday, August 6](#)
- Christina Trombley, Executive Director of Drake Online and Continuing Education, will continue to lead the [Online Design Dialogue Series](#) meetings on alternate Thursdays. The next session will be **Thursday, 30 at 11:30** and will focus on using the Grade Center

within Blackboard. **Access to regularly updated grades in the grade center is perhaps students' top expectation for course-related communication.** Please note: We have increased the number of available spots in these sessions because of high demand, so if you have had difficulty registering for these events in the past, that should be resolved now. Recordings for this and other sessions in the series are available on the Online Design Dialogue Menu on the [DOCE Faculty Resources Page](#).

- On Tuesday, **August 4th, 10-noon**, Renée Cramer, Herb and Karen Baum Chair of Ethics in the Professions, will offer a virtual session titled “[Mindfulness and Ethical Leadership in Uncertain Times](#).” In this session, participants will discuss strategies for engaging students in thinking about their personal and professional development and their roles as ethical leaders, especially given the challenges and opportunities posed by current uncertainties. Looking ahead to fall, participants will consider how we can mindfully prepare for teaching in uncertain times by focusing on our mission, commitments, and values as professors across the institution. Recordings of this and other CTE-sponsored sessions are available for later viewing in the CTE’s [Email and Video Archives](#).
- **Daily: ITS, CTE, and DOCE continue to offer more intensive individual faculty support.** Please use this [link](#) to request assistance with technology-related and course design and planning. When you do, please be sure to provide as much detail about your specific needs as possible. Requests will be processed every twenty-four hours, Monday through Friday, through August 10<sup>th</sup>. Once your request is received and processed, you will receive one or more of the following responses:
  - Requests for additional information.
  - Guidance on accessing web resources that will address your question.
  - An invitation to join a one-on-one meeting with a specialist.

Please be aware that, depending on the availability of support specialists, the timing of your request, and the level of demand, you should expect to receive a response within **two business days** and that individual assistance may be scheduled for **up to a week after the system receives complete information from you**. Therefore, you should plan well ahead: Please do not expect to receive “on-demand” or “just-in-time” assistance. After August 10, the availability of customized, one-on-one, in-person support will be very limited.