

SFA Dean's Office Q&A Session
November 19, 2020

Opening Notes

Dean D'Alleva thanks everyone in the School of Fine Arts, in all of the academic departments, the exhibiting and performance venues, and the Dean's Office, for all of the amazing work you have done this semester. We've had a great semester and some wonderful things have been happening in spite of the challenges, both in terms of rising to the challenge of the pandemic with some fantastic virtual programming and distance learning, modified in-person learning, and all of the things we have had to learn how to do in a very few short months, but also in terms of the regular work of the semester that is ongoing.

Associate Dean Frogley reminds all of a few deadlines for grant programs. The OVPR Scholarship Facilitation Fund grant application is due on December 1. The deadlines for both the Research Excellence Program and the newer Scholarship and Collaboration in Humanities and Arts Research Program (SCHARP) is December 15. The SFA Research Grant and the STEAM Innovation Grant deadlines have been pushed later than they have been in recent years; the SFA Research Grant deadline is Monday, January 11, and the STEAM Innovation Grant deadline is Monday, January 18. Applications to the Project Completion Grant are on a rolling basis – they can be submitted any time.

Assistant Dean Bridgeman shared information regarding the on-campus employee registration update for Spring. See attached PowerPoint for details.

Q&A

Q: How is SFA approaching the purchase of subscriptions to online tools to support distance learning that the university doesn't always provide?

A: We are prioritizing university-approved and supplied tools, as those tools have full technical and logistical support through the university. Of course, those tools are not always adequate. We are dealing with these requests on a case-by-case basis, so bring your request to your department head, who can then reach out to Anne and Colleen to have a conversation. Do note that if you use a tool that isn't supplied by the university, you don't have university-level support for that tool, which can be challenging.

Q: If someone wants to have a COVID test, how do they schedule that?

A: Send your request to Colleen directly, and she will act as a liaison to facilitate the request and communication to HR.

Q: Can employees request a COVID test if they are not sure about possible exposure and also not showing any symptoms?

A: As above, send the request to Colleen directly and she will facilitate with HR.

Q: Has there been any consideration of all the new literature and examples of participation around the world with respect to performance ensembles?

A: It has been challenging to adapt to new forms of presenting performances. There are innovations and things that we are doing that we will keep with us as we move past the pandemic. If you have ideas or examples around ensemble performance participation that will bring value and richness to the work, please bring them forward and we'll find ways to support this work. Music ensembles have been the most challenging due to the dangers, which has been heartbreaking, so if there are innovative examples of things you want to do, please bring them forward. The Dean relies on faculty with expertise in their own areas to bring these suggestions forward.

Q: Are faculty and staff able to access campus during the break?

A: Yes, we will do our best to provide access to campus in a way that is safe and compliant with university regulations. Please Keep in mind the procedures around coming onto campus highlighted in Colleen's PowerPoint. Also, do understand that if the University changes what it does in response to a change in infection rates could change what we are doing; if the State asks us to roll back access, we have to follow that guidance. So be prepared to pivot if necessary.

Q: When will we know whether a class can use a location for spring semester?

A: These are posted by the Registrar in Student Admin. We've made the Jorgensen and the von der Mehden available to the broader university for teaching large classes – if there are questions or concerns about use of those facilities, reach out to the Dean's Office for assistance. The university administration really appreciates our generosity in making these spaces available.