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[Research News] Maintaining Research and Creative Activity

1 message

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Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 12:00 PM

To: researchers@lists.uaa.alaska.edu

Dear UAA Research Community,

COVID-19 situation remains quite serious and is ever evolving. I have been in regular communication with UAF, UAS, and Statewide regarding our research enterprise. Through this email I would like to share ideas regarding to help scale down laboratory and/or field research activities and hopefully redirect in a direction that will allow you to continue your research or funded activity. Please see the attached "Maintaining Progress in Research Projects" document.

First and foremost, I refer you to the UA Coronavirus webpage for the most current information: <https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/>

Also, please look on UAA Office of Research's homepage for more specific information and documents created that directly apply to UAA;

Research Related Travel

UA expects all travel to comply with DHSS Health Alerts 9.1 (out of state travel) and 9.2 (in-state travel) (attached). The restrictions in 9.2 apply to intra-state travelers departing from communities in Alaska with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

With this ban, it is no longer necessary to distinguish among remote rural communities and towns along the road system. Non-essential travel is banned.

Visualizing a Research Horizon

In many cases, our funded activities have dramatically changed as COVID-19 has spread and restrictions have been put into place. In the majority of cases there is no way to continue business as usual. It is my belief that of all aspects of academia, it is the research enterprise has the greatest ability to adapt. I encourage you to be innovative in adapting your research to complete important work while at home or on-line. Further, it is also necessary that you help your students and staff similarly adapt.

The NSF Director, France Cordova, released a letter to the community today (attached). It is well-worth reading. Further, the Office of Management and Budget has directed the federal funding agencies to be flexible in working with university researchers to that end many agencies have begun to adopt these flexibilities and put them into action. Federal agencies have been slowly releasing their method of adoption of the flexibilities. *The largest take away of these actions is that it is up to the project Principal Investigators to reach out to their associated funding agency Program Managers to discuss a way forward.*

How might I adapt?

Consider how you and your team might re-focus an existing project to using computational methods to answer your research questions, performing data analysis, or producing research products (e.g. journal articles, books, recordings, videos, etc.).

It will be up to you and your team, develop a viable plan, and then present that plan to your funding agency program manager for their approval.

Additionally, consider writing new proposals. The Office of Research will begin shortly to share new opportunities that originate from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as all of the regular solicitations. Or disclose and begin the work to secure intellectual property rights on your discoveries or creations.

Asking Questions and New Discussions

There are a number of options for you to ask questions or participate in discussions relating to impacts of COVID-19

on your research or creative activities.

- Ask the Office of Sponsored Programs a COVID-19 related question using the form at this [LINK](#).
- Dean's & Directors are invited to the RCAPC meeting on Thursday, March 26th at Noon via Zoom the link previously provided.
- Faculty and Staff are invited to join the Faculty Research Working Group (FRWG) meeting on Friday March 27th at 2:30P via Zoom using this [LINK](#).

In Closing

Our society, our community is hurting. I believe that many of you have the potential to adapt your research to bring some relief to our city, state, or nation. I suspect that your program manager would probably be very receptive in that use of your research funds in this manner. If you could come up with a better way of testing virus swabs, delivering pizzas, coordinating community discussions/messaging, or doing anything to address our current challenges, we would all appreciate that investment of your talents.

I am greatly appreciative of your dedication to your students, staff, and to your field. I have been constantly reminded that despite these challenging working conditions, UAA students, staff, and faculty are leaning into their work, trying to get as much done as possible. I extend my sincerest level of gratitude to each of you and will personally as well as direct the Office of Research to assist you in any way we can.

Stay healthy, stay safe, stay at least 6 feet apart,

Aaron D. Dotson, PhD, PE

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Researchers mailing list

Researchers@lists.uaa.alaska.edu

<https://lists.uaa.alaska.edu/mailman/listinfo/researchers>

3 attachments



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NSF COVID-19 (in146) .pdf

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