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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
LEROY WESTERLING, CHAIR, GRADUATE COUNCIL
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MARCH 18, 2020

**TO: GRADUATE GROUP CHAIRS
UCM SENATE FACULTY**

FROM: LEROY WESTERLING, CHAIR, GRADUATE COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LeRoy Westerling". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

RE: HEALTH AND SAFETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POST-DOCS

In light of the urgent need for social distancing to deal with the current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, we are reaching out to graduate group Chairs and faculty today to encourage you to carefully assess the safety and appropriateness of working conditions for graduate students and post-docs under your mentorship.

Mentees may be uncomfortable putting in regular hours in crowded laboratories, and every effort should be made to reduce unnecessary in-person contact. While we understand the desire to keep research programs on track, we must accept that there will be some reduction in research productivity at all levels during the current crisis. The Committee on Academic Personnel and research sponsors are making it clear that reductions in research productivity will be accommodated in future review cycles.

Our foremost concern must be with the health and safety of those under our stewardship. Furthermore, in these early days of the crisis, we must also be especially cognizant of the mental and emotional toll rapid changes in our daily lives may be taking on all of us, and the need to provide some breathing space to everyone who needs it.

Please be mindful as you go about transitioning work plans for graduate students and postdocs under your care and mentorship.

Regards

LeRoy Westerling

CC: Graduate Council
Senate Office