



Manawatū Engineering & Applied Technologies Students Meeting

Thursday 7 May 2020, meeting opened 2pm.

In attendance from UCOL

Jerry Sherman - Executive Director Applied Education and Research

Christine Beech – Director Public Relations and Communication

Danny Reilly - Executive Dean Engineering & Applied Technologies

Lindsay Tamblyn – Head of School - Construction and Engineering

Margot Ferrick - Head of School - Technologies

Sylvie Hickton – Health and Safety

Victoria Blockley-Powell – Student Success Senior Manager

Teina Mataira - Pouarahi Maori and Pacific Peoples Education

UCOL Update

We've been planning for Level 2 over last 10 days for. We've been planning in advance to be ready for next week. I'm pleasantly surprised and encouraged about what Level 2 will look like. We also have to take advice from Ministry of Education.

As we head out of Level 3, it will be a quite different experience going from level 2 to 3, where we had very little notice and time to plan. This time there is a lot more advance planning in place. Remember that we have to layer over the Government announcement what we are bound to as an academic institution.

We will still look to do as much of our learning as we can in a blended way, which is primarily around safety and wellbeing of students and staff. There will be exceptions to that – this faculty an example, with hospitality, trades etc. already on site. The general principle is that we will do online learning as much as possible, but with exceptions for practical work, exams and assessment, and for the social aspect of classmates etc. Some UCOL staff will come on campus to run teaching that needs to be done. If you are expected to be on campus, you will be contacted by your Programme Leader to let you know. If you don't have that contact, you shouldn't come back onto campus – especially on that first day.

We will be reflecting based on today's announcement, and on advice from the Ministry of Education, which is still to come.

We will be looking to maintain social distance. This may impact some of our spaces like the Atrium, although this will be confirmed post announcement. There is a lot of preparation that has to go on prior to move, e.g. health and safety have had to measure out 1 metre throughout the campus which impacts on, for example, the number of seats available in a classroom. Lots of prep work is being done in terms of cleaning, hygiene, and security guards on doors. For students' first time on campus – only if going to class – tutor will confirm your contact details so we are compliant with contact tracing requirements.

One area that the Prime Minister talked about was reduction in crowd size and gathering, track and trace, and social distancing and hygiene –this is what we will work to control and emphasise.

We are very keen to have students back, in a practical sense, but it will be staged. The larger issue is the tracing and hygiene issues as we get people circulating, e.g. from one class to another. This will be the biggest issue to work through. We have priority groups that have a great deal of practical element. We are very aware of these and this is top of our mind. We'll work through the Prime Minister's announcement from this afternoon to see how this affects what we have already planned.

We are looking at timetabling based on what we thought might happen. This will be reviewed now we have more detail, then students can expect communications from their Programme Leaders.

Some classes are on site now and will look at what else we can bring on at Level 2. We're communicating with students through Moodle, Collaborate, etc., and looking at increasing video content through demonstrations by lecturers.

We realise that there will be requirements for students to be on campus. Student Success support will be by appointment only. You'll be met by the staff member and have the appointment in a safe area and at a safe distance. The Library will be open to provide books. Essentially, we'll have appointments online and in person to suit students' needs.

Answers to Student Questions/Discussions

- Will be there be more video learning for electrical apprenticeships? It's currently self-taught by books being sent out, with is very limited.
A - Some classes are being taught via video etc. with materials being sent out. There should also be plenty of access to the lecturer. We will review this and keep in touch as we review what Level 2 will mean.
- Is there recording of video sessions happening? Can it continue in the future?
A - Yes, where there is capacity.
- Can we come on campus to use equipment?
A. Not ad hoc, only when timetabled and officially on campus. However, if you are a person who needs to use some equipment and you don't have that available to you at your home, talk to your lecturer and we can make individual arrangements. We don't want to prevent you from continuing your learning, but will have to make a plan.
- If we have a small class size, say 7, can we assume we have class's onsite? I need particular software.
A - Exceptions will be made for this sort of situation so far as possible. Remember to wait to hear from your lecturer before you come on campus and make sure your contact details are up to date. We are taking a cautious and safe approach to ensure safety.
- Are classes that focus on practical learning going to be split for safe distancing?
A - for some of these classes, rooms are small and people are close together.
We would timetable to try to break up classes to maintain social distancing.
We are working through what the must haves are, and what alternatives are possible.
We're looking at live online classes for an hour or two each morning. This will help with engagement and feeling part of something. We are aware of how practical and hands-on this faculty is and how challenging remote learning is. The uptake from students has been overwhelming; an incredible credit to all students.
We appreciate your forbearance with this. We love blended learning but the situation isn't ideal. We are doing our very best.

- Will there be the possibility of extensions at the end of the year if required?
A – We will avoid it if at all possible, particularly for those who are due to graduate or due to progress onto a next level paper in semester 2.
Rest assured we will help you complete your qualification. If it means we get to a point where we need to extend a programme we will, but we will be avoiding this if at all possible.
We'll get you back on site as soon as we can.

UCOL

Just a reminder of wellness. We don't know where the end is, so keep checking in on your own wellness and that of your classmates. Remember if you or a classmate are struggling there are lots of people who you can talk to. As an institution, we still want to see you succeed we still want to help you complete your qualifications. The country will need you.