



Health Science Students Meeting

Friday 24 April 2020, meeting opened 12.45pm

In attendance from UCOL

Jerry Sherman - Exec Director Applied Education and Research

Christine Beech – Director Public Relations and Communication

Penny O'Leary – Executive Dean Health and Science

Vicki-Lee Tyacke – HoS - Nursing Palmerston North

Mel Burt – Senior Librarian

Sylvie Hickton – Health and Safety Manager

Stewart Davies – Health and Safety Management Officer

Victoria Blockley-Powell – Student Success Senior Manager

Update from Jerry

Thank you everyone for how quickly we've turned to online learning.

My role looks after all of the teaching and learning side of UCOL. We have put together an incident management team, who convened during the initial stages of the pandemic. They began working on a teaching recovery plan over the last five weeks, focused on how we could deliver programmes in a blended, distance focused delivery by 28 April. As we move into Level 3, our focus is on programmes that has to be delivered in a specialist teaching environment, where activities must occur in order for students to graduate this semester. Students in these programmes will be able to come onto campus, while the majority of students will continue to learn online. Some courses already being delivered, some will begin delivery on 28 April.

We acknowledge that as in previous meeting, we know that students are experiencing issues but we are all –students and staff – trying our best.

Update from Penny

We're very confident and overwhelmed with success and gains we've earned together through such a difficult period.

Vet nursing will be on campus from next week with Heather Grady. This is for clinical/practical requirements, which would normally have been done at veterinary practices.

Update from Victoria

All student support services still available via distance – counselling, workshops, 1:1 learning advisors, APA referencing help etc. Just get in touch with any of our team via the online booking or email.

Financial assistance (e.g. food parcels etc) have been ongoing, particularly now in conjunction with Palmerston North City Council. They can help support students with WINZ and Studylink.

Update from Sylvie and Stewart

The Incident Management team has been meeting daily to address issues and look for ways to help affected staff and students through the lockdown.

Area of focus at the moment is the safety of those who are coming back onto campus - especially meeting hygiene and cleanliness requirements.

Answers to Student Questions/Discussions

- What's happening with year 3 nursing placements?
Penny – We're working with Vicki Lee doing a lot of prep working with DHBs, non DHB partners and nursing counsel. Detailed plans have been sent to all these groups, bearing in mind we have missed five weeks, which is a significant number. All organisations are very aware that we need to make these up. Currently we're prioritising – focusing on CAP students, and 3rd year students who will be sitting state finals.

We're in contact with nursing counsel on some flexible opportunities with regards to state finals – they have absolutely committed that no-one will be disadvantaged in having to sit state final in July. We're waiting on final information and outcomes from all these people.
- Mid-year first year – will we be going into campus for last two exams?
Vicki-Lee – No students will be on site for exams under Level 3. We're currently looking at other ways that the exams could be facilitated – working on a plan to make sure students can progress to 600 level. We're exploring options.
- 600 and 700 level placement – will degree be extended due to focus being on higher levels?
All students immediately affected have been contacted individually by Vicki Lee. At this stage working towards current timetables. If we need to make any changes, students will be notified as we go. We want to make sure that students immediately impacted by clinical discussion are contacted first, then there will be an email to all nursing cohort.
- Medical Imaging – 3rd year student – what is timeline for academic year and when will it be finished? What about if we finish later if expected? Can we have all material up on Moodle?
Currently assignments scheduled but the information not on Moodle.
Penny – The programme is competency based, as opposed to number of hours, which is a big plus for this course in terms of time. We are fully governed by the Government directives, and are working with external parties on preparation for a return to placements. DHBs are North Island-wide, so there is some uncertainty but we're working hard to keep minimal interruption. More info will be available as we move full into Level 3.
- Library resources for MIT?
Mel – We're working with lecturers as we cannot get access to physical resources at this time. We're trying our best to get access to online resources.
- When will reliable timetables be available for onsite classes?
Vicki Lee – Programme Leaders are working on these at the moment, hoping to have something confirmed by Tuesday. Big task, programming not only theory but also considering when we may return to clinical environment. This means timetables will remain fluid – we appreciate this causes uncertainty and difficulty, but it is a bit out of our control.
Penny – I've spoken to the chief nurse who said that everything is incredibly fluid and ever-

Information for UCOL Students and Staff

changing at the moment, we're working really hard in a very uncertain and fast changing environment.

- When can students begin lab classes again?
Vicki Lee – We will be resuming classes for nursing programmes as soon as UCOL reopens under Level 2. No labs under Level 3.
- Moodle question – can we have content on Moodle? Particularly with regards to MIT.
Jerry – Has asked that Shon work with lecturers on the details.
Penny – Suggested emails to her and Shon.
- Currently in pre-nursing programme but applied for nursing in July – will we be accepted?
Penny - Confirmed that currently, yes that is the plan.
Jerry - Where possible, everybody graduating or moving from one year to the next will be as planned. But cannot 100% confirm this, out of hands at moment until we're in Level 2, but we will be doing everything possible to make sure people can graduate and move through levels on schedule.
- Will all students be back at Level 2, or will it be staggered?
Jerry – We are using Level 3 as a test, for things like tracking students etc. At the beginning next week, we will begin thinking about how we scale this up for Level 2. At Level 3 there is a very small controlled number of people on campus, at Level 2 this will be this scaled up. Clear advice and communication will be given to students well in advance.