



Engineering and Applied Technologies Student Meeting

Friday 24 April 2020, meeting opened 1.30pm

In attendance from UCOL

Jerry Sherman - Exec Director Applied Education and Research

Christine Beech – Director Public Relations and Communication

Danny Reilly – Executive Dean Engineering & Applied Technologies

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.

I'd like to emphasise that in the EAT faculty, some of the best work has been done in terms of adapting to study under lockdown Level 4.

Update from Danny

Focus is on priority students, those whose programmes were about to finish (last Friday, today or 14 May) because they began in Semester Two 2019. For most classes they have only missed two weeks, or three. We want to give those few students (approx. 80) the opportunity to finish off their programmes. If you are one of those, and haven't heard from us yet, you will hear from us this afternoon. If you don't get personally contacted, you are not to come to UCOL.

Those learning on campus will be limited to a maximum nine students and their lecturer per bubble. They will arrive and leave together. Even the Dean will not be on campus, it's very restricted!

Don't forget that Barb and Tahu are also available to help.

Update from Victoria

All student support services still available via distance – counselling, workshops, 1:1 learning advisors 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.

Some youth guarantee students will be affected as they are coming onto campus next week, so petrol vouchers will be safely distributed to these students.

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 will level 2 look like for beauty therapy, will they be able have clients?
Dean – beauty and hairdressing – very hands on. Until we get down to potentially level 1 there won't be practical classes. Reassured that students needn't worry, programme will be completed. Engage with the learning material on Moodle. Nail tech and hairdressing, potentially beauty – are looking at having a couple of kits to go out to students, but are seeking clarification as to whether this is allowed.
- Are internet packages being considered for students?
Jerry – 5% of students have been identified as having issues. We decided from the beginning that it is very difficult to get to a level where the computers we could supply would be good enough, connectivity be good enough and the person receiving has required IT skills. As an alternative, learning packs as being couriered to students in a printed form. Biggest issue was that students didn't have a device or appropriate device, as opposed to connectivity issues. There has already been discussions about what we'll look like post COVID – the goal is that all student has a minimum standard device.
Dean – please inform your lecturer asap if you do need materials printed. We think we know who those people are, but if you are affected please inform lecturer.
- Beauty and hairdressing – will we not come back until Level 1?
Jerry - no, will be back at level two in some capacity. Not sure what this will look like, the nature of the practical might be slightly different. There may be a nationwide decision regarding practical studies where students need to physically touch clients (sports and ex, beauty, nursing, etc.).
- How will practicals for cookery happen in Level 2?
Danny – these could happen now, these will be the second priority group – at the moment the focus is on those students needing to fulfil practical requirements to complete their paper before end of semester. Remember, we are currently only two weeks behind. This can be easily caught up, as moving on with theory. We will get you through your programmes!
- What is happening with construction trade skills level 3 second semester for this year?
Danny – at the moment, will be back to campus when everyone else is, which is almost certainly at Level 2. Currently all learning being done online, lecturer will have been in touch with you.