

Preface:

To the professors and lab instructors and staff that are now being CC'd on this email, we request you read this email chain. These emails include many arguments against Proctortrack that we hope you will consider if you have decided to use Proctortrack. We are extremely grateful that some professors are standing with the students and not implementing Proctortrack; you are making a difference and we applaud you.

Dear Dr. Hussein, Dr. deMontigny and Engineering Faculty,

We feel that your reply is not taking us nor the extensive privacy and ethical concerns that Proctortrack poses seriously. Considering that our concerns are not being taken seriously and that we feel we are not being heard, we will proceed to take our concerns to the academic provost without the support of the faculty. We will also inform other groups who may listen to our concerns such as the local news, political figures, RPIRG, RESS, IEEE, EWB, Saskatchewan Privacy Commission etc. We are disappointed that no effort was provided in making the current situation more transparent as per our requests.

Upon further research, we find that very little attempt at communication with students was made regarding Proctortrack. Looking back at the emails we have received, we have only found two emails which reference e-proctoring and the reference is brief, vague and at the end of a long email and does not explicitly mention Proctortrack. These emails occurred in August, at the end of summer. This seems to indicate a rush to implement a 'solution' before the fall semester to alleviate concerns. This is unacceptable and seems to indicate that the University did not make reasonable attempts at communication even though you claim otherwise. There was an email from URSU that I (Avery) received regarding an additional town hall at a different date, but no mention of Proctortrack or e-proctoring was made in that email. In addition to this, Noah did not receive the URSU email. The emails from URSU seem to not always reach every student and one attempt at contact is unacceptable. For students to make informed decisions and for the University to have claimed consultation, when email records show minimal effort to do so and little information provided, these emails are disappointing. The lack of transparency surrounding the University decision and process outside of these two emails is unfortunate and would appear to violate sections 8.2.b and 11.1.b of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as we stated previously.

We would also like to bring up the issue with consent for Proctortrack again. As mentioned in our last email, for students to have cameras on for Zoom to be used to proctor exams, there needs to be complete consent. For Proctortrack however, the same consent is not considered. We believe that both checks for consent are relevant and important and to ignore consent for Proctortrack is to break Section 11 of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This double standard is being used to force students to use Proctortrack and is unacceptable.

We request that there be a more substantial reply from the faculty to the last email we sent. We understand that it is long and takes time to go through, however we put in the time to raise valid concerns and we would appreciate time and effort in your replies.

Thanks,

Avery Cameron (4th Year Software Systems Engineering)

Noah Rowbotham (4th Year Software Systems Engineering)

The Emails below are the University's communication to students over the summer. Only on July 31 and Aug 7 is E-Proctoring/Remote Proctoring mentioned and Proctortrack itself is not mentioned. There is no transparency on concerns or the process as demonstrated below.

**July 22: E-Proctoring is not mentioned**

**Student Survey: Remote Learning**

From [Student Affairs](#) on 2020-07-22 15:35

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

Dear Students

The University of Regina requests your participation in a survey on remote teaching and learning. The purpose of the survey is to gather data on students' remote learning experiences during the Spring/Summer 2020 semester and their perceptions of the benefits and challenges of remote teaching and learning. The survey also seeks to identify the main kinds of institutional supports required to enhance students' remote learning experiences.

The results of the survey will inform the University's initiatives to support remote teaching and learning in the Fall 2020 semester and beyond. You are strongly encouraged to participate in this survey and thus contribute your voice.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. All responses will be anonymized and no personally identifiable information will be collected. Individual responses will be used only for statistical purposes and will be reported only in aggregated form.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. When you complete the survey, you will be automatically directed to a web page to enter a prize draw to win one of the three gift cards valued at \$200 each. Participation in the prize draw is entirely voluntary. You must be a student of the University of Regina, Luther College, Champion College, or the First Nations University to be eligible for the prize draw.

The survey will close at 11:59 pm, 8 August 2020. To take the survey, please click on the link below or copy and paste the address onto your browser.

[https://uregina.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9AkzFivB7KivuQZ](https://uregina.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9AkzFivB7KivuQZ)

If you have any questions about this survey or difficulty in accessing the site or completing the survey, please contact [AVP.Academic@uregina.ca](mailto:AVP.Academic@uregina.ca).

**Note:** This survey has been approved in accordance with the University of Regina's "Surveys" policy. More information on the policy can be found at <http://www.uregina.ca/policy/browse-policy/policy-GOV-070-025.html>. The survey is being conducted using Qualtrics, cloud-based software that stores data on secure servers in Ireland.

Thank you in advance for providing this important feedback.

Sincerely

Dr. Nilgun Onder

Associate Vice-President (Academic)

**July 24: E-Proctoring is not mentioned**

**Interim President's Friday message to campus: 24 July 2020**

From [Student Affairs](#) on 2020-07-24 15:08

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

#### Interim President's Friday message to campus: 24 July 2020

- **The week's developments with COVID-19**
- **Aerosols and the need for masks**
- **Winter 2021: decision expected in September**
- **Appointment of Associate Vice-President (Research)**

Dear members of the University community,

#### **The week's developments with COVID-19**

In the US, concerns mount daily. *The Washington Post* [reports](#) that "[p]ositivity rates are at alarming levels in numerous states, [and] hospitalizations are soaring." *The New York Times* [notes](#) that, in Mississippi, "at least 30 state legislators had tested positive for the virus in recent weeks, including many who were still not wearing masks while continuing to hold public events."

*The Times* adds: "Practices like that have helped the virus make its way to areas that were initially unaffected ... and higher hospitalizations and death rates have followed."

Like [Alberta](#) and [British Columbia](#), Saskatchewan has seen an [increase](#) in reported COVID-19 infections. And just south of our border, a two-hour drive from our main campus, North Dakota this week has seen a [rapid rise](#) in infections and hospitalizations.

All of these indicators coalesce into an imperative: individually and as the University community, we must do all we can to **slow the spread** of the pandemic in our city and province.

#### **Aerosols and the need for masks**

For our American neighbours, few COVID-related issues have taken on more cultural and political salience than the decision whether to wear a mask. Despite [clear evidence](#) that masks can help protect others from infection, many choose to remain unmasked in public spaces.

To help us understand the University's current position on masks (which follows below), I've asked **Dr Andrew Cameron**, chair of the University Recovery Planning Group and COVID-19 researcher, to explain aerosols and the risks they pose in enclosed spaces such as classrooms, hallways, elevators, and washrooms. Dr Cameron writes:

*SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, transmits between people primarily via direct contact with saliva and via respiratory droplets. Respiratory droplets are expelled during talking, shouting, singing, coughing, and sneezing.*

*Fortunately, these large (>5 µm) droplets fall in air, which is why 2 meters of physical distancing is recommended to reduce the risk of infection.*

*Unlike the larger ones, smaller **droplet nuclei** (<5 µm), also called **aerosols**, can remain suspended in air and travel over extended distances — in some instances, tens of meters. Highly infectious pathogens like measles and tuberculosis can transmit via aerosols as well as via respiratory droplets. Currently there is no direct evidence of airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2, but this is an area of intense study because sensitive techniques can detect the virus suspended in air for extended periods of time after experimental aerosolization. Some scientists suggest that super-spreader events in offices, restaurants, and close-proximity events like choir practices are best explained by aerosol transmission, but presently the majority of evidence points to the main mode of spread being large droplets and contact.*

*Surgical and cloth masks are effective at reducing droplet and aerosol transmission, especially when worn by infected individuals. Recently in the United States, masks [helped prevent](#) two symptomatic hair stylists from infecting over 140 clients and coworkers. Modelling shows that masks [can stop](#) the pandemic, even when they are only 50% effective at capturing exhaled virus and are even less efficient at blocking inhaled virus.*

*The World Health Organization provides a comprehensive [overview](#) of the potential for SARS-CoV-2 to transmit through different modes, including contact, droplet, airborne, fomite, fecal-oral, bloodborne, mother-to-child, and animal-to-human transmission.*

Recently, other jurisdictions have made the wearing of masks mandatory in certain situations. The City of Calgary, for example, has passed a [bylaw](#) that effective 1 August will require people to wear masks in all indoor public spaces and while using public transit.

Additionally, the University's Health, Safety and Wellness team has compiled [information](#) about masks. Please take time to read it.

Though the University of Regina is not yet mandating the wearing of masks, **we now [strongly recommend](#) that all members of the University community wear a mask in public/shared spaces on our campuses (entrances, hallways, elevators, stairwells, etc.).**

**We also continue to ask people not to come to our campuses unless it is necessary to do so.** To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spreading on our campuses and throughout the community, it is important that the on-campus population be kept as low as possible.

As noted in last week's update, the virus is not going away. Please be aware of what is happening in provinces and states around us. **Protect yourself and others.** Please also understand that this situation is changing rapidly, and may require more stringent precautions in the weeks to come.

## **Winter 2021**

Together with the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina is in discussion with the Ministry of Advanced Education regarding modes of course delivery in the Winter 2021 term. Decisions on whether it, like the Fall 2020 term, will be largely remote will be made in September, and will depend largely on what trajectory the COVID-19 pandemic takes in our province. As always, the prime criterion will be the health and safety of our communities.

## **Appointment of Associate Vice-President (Research)**

Earlier this week Vice-President (Research) Dr Kathy McNutt announced the appointment of **Dr Chris Yost** as Associate Vice-President (Research). You can learn more about Chris, a long-time member of the faculty in the Department of Biology, [here](#). He embodies the "unwavering commitment to discovering new knowledge" of which our Strategic Plan [\*kahkiyaw kiwâhkômâkaninawak\*](#) speaks.

Indeed, at this time of global challenge and disruption, there is a more pressing need for university-based and community-partnered research than perhaps ever before. With climate change, political unrest, and now the pandemic, we are confronted by a host of complex questions requiring careful, thoughtful responses. Some of these are provided by University of Regina researchers in fields as diverse as [biology](#), [behavioural psychology](#), and [public policy](#).

As we seek to increase the range, impact, and visibility of the University's research, we welcome Chris to his new role.

In conclusion, thank you again for all you continue to do to protect yourselves, your families, your co-workers, and the wider community. And thank you for ensuring that the University's essential work of teaching, research, and community service continues in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase  
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

**July 31: First found mention of Remote Proctoring (Proctor-track not mentioned)**

**Interim President's Friday message to campus: 31 July 2020**



From [Student Affairs](#) on 2020-07-31 16:58

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

Dear members of the University community,

As July comes to a close and we approach the August long weekend, I am pleased to share some positive news with you.

### **Use of proceeds from sale of President's residence**

Earlier this month, the University successfully concluded the sale transaction for the President's residence on McNiven Avenue. Part of the proceeds from the sale will go toward two significant initiatives.

**The Student Emergency Fund** will receive a boost of \$100,000, providing additional financial support to students in need.

And later this year two new research chairs will be established: the **President's Research Chair** and the **Chancellor's Research Chair**. This exciting initiative is being led by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) working closely with University Advancement and Communications. Details will follow in the Fall.

### **Distinguished alumnus Dr Nevan Krogan (UC San Francisco) to present on groundbreaking COVID-19 research**

The University of Regina is very proud of the accomplishments of our graduates. **Dr Nevan Krogan** is the first researcher in the world to have captured images of the COVID-19 virus interacting with human proteins. The U of R will host a special virtual edition of the Research with Impact series featuring Dr Krogan and his colleague **Jacqueline Fabius**.

Speaking from San Francisco, they will present their groundbreaking research to the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan, as well as to invited guests. U of R faculty and staff will receive invitations shortly. The event takes place at **10 a.m. on 25 August**.

### **Next University town hall**

You will also want to save the date for the next virtual University town hall, slated for **1:30 p.m. on 14 August**. Join us for an update on teaching in the Fall 2020 term, the remote proctoring project, and related topics.

Subsequent town halls are scheduled for 28 August (update on recruitment, enrolments, and student retention), 11 September (update from the University Recovery Planning Group), and 25 September (the new Strategic Plan: what does it mean for Faculties and units?).

### **U of R researchers' work: research with impact**

Finally, University of Regina researchers' work continues to better the lives of many people in this province, this country, and abroad.

**Andrew Cameron's** team in Biology is working on the use of genome sequencing in [identifying viral infections](#) including COVID-19. In the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, **Addul Bais** and his group have [created technology](#) that promises to reduce herbicide use and assist farmers to achieve better yields with less impact on the environment. This, too, is research with impact!

In closing, I hope you are finding time for rest and recreation in this time of beautiful Saskatchewan summer weather. Please take care of yourselves, your families, and those around you in the community.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase  
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

**Aug 7: Last mention of Remote Proctoring (Proctortrack not mentioned)**

**Interim President's Friday message to campus: 7 August 2020**

From [Student Affairs](#) on 2020-08-07 19:55

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

Dear members of the University community,

**A thank-you to administrative and support staff**

I wish to thank the University community's administrative and support staff, who have been keeping the institution operating over the past several months. Some have by necessity been working in person on our campuses; most have been working remotely. All are ensuring that crucial operations and systems have continued to function – and will continue to do so – during the pandemic.

Here are a few of the many examples I could cite. In the **Facilities Management** area, staff have been performing maintenance and upgrades on facilities at all of our campuses, ensuring that our buildings – including their electrical, heating/cooling and plumbing systems – are in the best possible condition. **Custodial staff** are keeping our buildings clean and sanitized for those who must be on-site, and in anticipation of the eventual return of people to campus in larger numbers. **Maintenance and trades staff** are carrying out literally dozens of projects – for example, replacing the lighting in the Education Auditorium – that can be accomplished while campuses are almost vacant. And 24 hours a day, **Campus Security staff** ensure that our facilities remain safe and secure.

**Information Services staff** have been working both on-site and remotely to meet the technological needs of students, faculty and other staff both during the summer and for the upcoming Fall 2020 term. **Human Resources employees** have been addressing staffing needs and ensuring that the biweekly payroll is deposited in all employees' accounts. The **Health, Safety & Wellness team** has done a remarkable job of assessing and implementing our COVID-19-related safety requirements. **Financial Services staff** have ensured that the University's bills are paid and that all of our regular Board and government reporting on revenues and expenditures is accurate and on time. **Employees in the Research Office** have facilitated researchers' grant applications to funding agencies.

**Student Affairs and UR International staff** have recruited, enrolled, advised and counselled students throughout the summer in anticipation of Fall 2020. The **Orientation Committee** is developing resources to help incoming students prepare for the academic year. **Administrative staff in every Faculty and department** have been advising students and helping instructors as they develop and deliver their course material. The **Registrar's Office** has developed the 2020-2021 course timetable in especially challenging circumstances, and **University Advancement & Communications staff** have communicated University developments and promoted the great work that takes place here.

To these and other colleagues at the University and federated colleges – thank you for your dedication to our academic mission. The University's teaching, research, and service to community could not have continued without your contributions. In challenging circumstances during the pandemic, you have been and continue to be vital to our operations.

### **RPIRG Green Patch Garden delivers produce to Carmichael Outreach**

With most of us currently working at a distance, few have had the opportunity this year to see what has been taking place in the **Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG) Green Patch Garden** just south of the Dr John Archer Library on the main campus. Throughout the summer, dedicated volunteers have tended the garden, and the "fruits of their labours" are helping others. RPIRG Green Patch Garden Co-ordinator **Tayef Ahmed** reports that more than 50 pounds of vegetables were recently delivered to Carmichael Outreach in Regina, providing fresh produce for 38 people. As harvest season continues, more produce will be delivered to community organizations as well as students.

Please take some time to read this [CTV News article](#) about the RPIRG Green Patch Garden and watch an interview with Tayef. Thank you, RPIRG!

### **Students continue to be helped by former professor**

Last week, I noted that \$100,000 of the proceeds from the sale of the President's residence will go toward the Student Emergency Fund, providing additional support to students in need. This week, I am pleased to announce additional support for students – a planned gift to the University by the late **Dr Saros Cowasjee**, a long-time Department of English colleague who passed away in December 2019.

In 2016, Dr Cowasjee established a \$100,000 endowment to create bursaries valued at \$1,100 each for students majoring in English at the University. Since 2017, up to four students per year have received the **Saros Cowasjee Bursary**, for which demonstrated financial need is a key criterion.

Earlier this week, we learned that in his will Dr Cowasjee generously earmarked an additional \$100,000 for the existing endowment. This planned gift will now allow up to nine students to receive bursaries annually, broadening the positive impact on our University of a man who taught countless students over several decades and was also an active donor to the University Library and Archives.

Having worked with Dr Cowasjee in the Department of English, I can say that this generous support of our students is entirely in keeping with his commitment to the University and the department. We were fortunate to have Dr Cowasjee as a colleague, and the University and its students continue to benefit from his legacy.

### **Teaching, learning, and e-proctoring for Fall 2020**

In last week's message I noted also that teaching, learning, and e-proctoring for Fall 2020 will be the subject of the next virtual University town hall, scheduled for **1:30 p.m. on Friday 14 August**. In my message to campus next Friday morning, I will provide an update on these topics that I hope will provide the basis for our discussion at the town hall. Please mark your calendar to attend. Zoom co-ordinates for the town hall follow below this message.

Also, early next week an update on masks will be sent out. Their use remains **strongly recommended** for shared public spaces on our campuses.

In closing, thank you for everything you continue to do for our University and its students. I hope you and your families are well and have been able to enjoy the recent beautiful weather.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase  
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

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Topic: Virtual Town Hall – Teaching, learning and e-proctoring for Fall 2020

Time: Aug 14, 2020 01:30 PM Saskatchewan

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uregina-ca.zoom.us/j/95585885246?pwd=QUo1N09WeFUra2ZOdU1iVitPa0lmQT09>

Meeting ID: 955 8588 5246

Passcode: 305049

One tap mobile

+16475580588,,95585885246# Canada

+17789072071,,95585885246# Canada

Dial by your location

[+1 647 558 0588](tel:+16475580588) Canada

[+1 778 907 2071](tel:+17789072071) Canada

[+1 204 272 7920](tel:+12042727920) Canada

[+1 438 809 7799](tel:+14388097799) Canada

[+1 587 328 1099](tel:+15873281099) Canada

[+1 647 374 4685](tel:+16473744685) Canada

Meeting ID: 955 8588 5246

Find your local number: <https://uregina-ca.zoom.us/u/ab6RaLIUuM>

Join by SIP

[95585885246@zoomcrc.com](mailto:95585885246@zoomcrc.com)

Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

213.19.144.110 (EMEA)

103.122.166.55 (Australia)

[209.9.211.110](tel:2099211110) (Hong Kong SAR)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

69.174.57.160 (Canada)

207.226.132.110 (Japan)

Meeting ID: 955 8588 5246

Passcode: 305049

**Aug 12: URSU Town Hall, E-Proctor not mentioned**

**URSU and U of R Joint Virtual Town Hall**



From [Student Affairs](#) on 2020-08-12 20:33

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

*Sent on behalf of University of Regina Students Union, please refer to the below email for any further inquiries*

Dear members of the University of Regina Students' Union,

I am pleased to inform you that The University of Regina Students' Union is hosting an online town hall on **Wednesday, August 19th at 1:30 PM with the presence of senior administration of the University of Regina**. This event is an opportunity for students to come together with the Executive Committee of the University of Regina Students' Union during these challenging and anxious times to discuss the Fall semester. It will also serve as a great opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to ask questions about the evolving educational environment in regards to COVID-19 and discuss how it will affect their academic experience.

Students are concerned about the quality of education, delivery methods for Fall/Winter terms, residence availability, and ancillary fees, among many other things. The URSU Virtual Town Hall will be a welcoming space for students to hear directly from the administration what the University is planning regarding these topics, as well as an effective way for them to catch up on items and updates they might have missed.

I hope that this **19 of August at 1:30pm**, you all will join us to share your voice!

**Here is the zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/94703671040>

I thank you all for being an integral part of your students' union and for your contribution in enriching the university experience of your fellow students. Please feel free to contact me or any of our executives anytime if you need any assistance.

Sincerely,

Gurjinder Singh Lehal

President

University of Regina Students' Union

Phone: (306) 586-8811 Ext: 206 | Email: [pres@ursu.ca](mailto:pres@ursu.ca)

**Aug 14: No mention of E-Proctoring or Town Hall Reminder**

**Interim President's Friday message to campus: 14 August 2020**

From [Student Affairs](#) on 2020-08-14 22:02

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

### **Interim President's Friday message to campus: 14 August 2020**

- Tuesday 1 September: masks/face coverings become mandatory on U of R campuses
- Instructors' videos for new students
- A thank-you to teaching staff
- Student documentary – 10 Days of Cree
- An uplifting "song of hope" by the University of Regina Choirs

Dear members of the University community,

Tuesday 1 September: masks/face coverings become mandatory on U of R campuses

In light of recent increases in COVID-19 infections in our city and province, the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Polytechnic have determined that for the health and safety of all, non-medical masks/face coverings will shortly be mandatory in all public and shared spaces on our campuses.

For the U of S and SaskPoly, this change takes effect Monday 24 August.

For the University of Regina, the change to mandatory masks/face coverings will take place on Tuesday 1 September. This later start date reflects the much-appreciated co-operation of members of the University community, who are keeping numbers on our campuses very low. It also gives those few more people who will be on our campuses in September, particularly those in low-density in-person labs and studios, time to acquire non-medical masks/face coverings.

Effective that date, masks/face coverings will be mandatory in all public and shared spaces (washrooms, hallways, classrooms, laboratories, studios, shared offices and workspaces, stairwells, elevators, etc.) where two-metre physical distancing may be difficult to maintain.

Until 1 September, the wearing of non-medical masks/face coverings remains strongly recommended in public and shared spaces. We continue to ask people not to come to campus unless it is absolutely necessary to do so.

The University's Health, Safety & Wellness team is preparing updated information about the wearing of masks/face coverings, which includes further details on recommended ones, where they will be required, and training on how to use them safely.

An email with that information will be sent to campus early next week. Other updates will be provided as they are available. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please email [ask.us@uregina.ca](mailto:ask.us@uregina.ca).

A personal note. Together with other members of the University Executive Team, I have begun to wear a mask if I come to campus. I now ask that you join us in doing so well before the date on which it becomes mandatory.

Why?

In recent weeks, the world has learned much about COVID-19. It's now clear that the infection can be spread by aerosol droplets emitted simply by speaking. It's also clear that any one of us can be an asymptomatic carrier – that is, we can be infected with COVID-19 without any inkling we carry the virus. We feel fine. But we unwittingly spread it to others, some of whom could become very ill.

For this reason, each of us on University of Regina campuses must do everything we can, including wearing masks or other recommended face coverings, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to the vulnerable, the immunocompromised, and those at the "sharp end" of the pandemic: our family members and neighbours working in healthcare.

Instructors' videos for incoming students

Over the past few weeks, eight members of our teaching staff have gone "above and beyond" to enhance the teaching and learning environment for our incoming students: Dr David DeMontigny and Robert Jones (Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science); Dr Harminder Guliani (Faculty of Arts); Dr Andrew Chan and Dr Mel Hart (Faculty of Science); Dr Fatima Pirbhai-Illich and Julie Machnaik (Faculty of Education); and Bruce Anderson (Faculty of Business Administration). They have recorded a [series of videos](#) to welcome new students to the University, show them what to expect in their coursework, and help them understand how they can succeed in their courses and labs in a remote learning environment.

To each of these great colleagues, and others doing similar work, thank you for undertaking this initiative in preparation for Fall 2020. It is a tremendous service to our students. I encourage everyone – students, faculty and staff alike – to watch these videos.

A thank-you to teaching staff

Our students succeed in their programs – and will continue to do so over the next year - in large part due to the support and guidance they receive from their instructors.

With this in mind, I would like to thank all members of our teaching staff for the work they have been doing throughout the summer.

Many of you – professors, instructors, and sessional lecturers – have been teaching at a distance during the Spring/Summer term. In some cases, you have been doing so while simultaneously developing your course material for the Fall 2020 and even Winter 2021 terms. In both your preparations and your teaching, all of you have proven to be creative and adaptable under challenging circumstances.

I appreciate that very much, and I know that U of R students will benefit a great deal from the work you are doing.

I would also like to express my appreciation for two other groups who have been contributing a great deal to the teaching and learning environment at our University. The staff in Counselling Services have been providing support to current and incoming students throughout the summer, and will be a key resource for them as they learn remotely in the months to come. Their professional response to students addressing an enormous range of challenges, problems, and indeed fears is a hallmark of our University. In addition, for the Spring/Summer term and for the terms to come, staff in the Flexible Learning Division of the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) have been providing invaluable assistance as teaching staff develop and deliver courses at a distance.

I cannot speak about both CCE and teaching and learning at our University without mentioning Dr Harvey King. Dr King has been Director of CCE for more than a decade, and prior to that, he taught thousands of students during his time as an Economics professor in the Faculty of Arts. When the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the move to teaching and learning at a distance for the Winter and Spring/Summer 2020 terms, Dr King selflessly postponed his planned graduated retirement so he could help effect the transition and oversee CCE's critical role in it. With Ms Christie Schultz assuming the role of Director of CCE on 17 August, today is Dr King's final official day as Director of CCE, although he will continue to teach. Please join me in thanking him for his many years of leadership in the University, and in welcoming Ms Schultz to our community.

#### Student documentary – 10 Days of Cree

Last week, le Bac student Wahbi Zarry brought to my attention a documentary he and his friend Tony Quiñones have created. Entitled [10 Days of Cree](#), this half-hour film follows Mr Zarry over the course of 10 days as he engages with people both at the University and in the larger community while working to learn the Cree language.

10 Days of Cree is a fine example of the quality work our students produce, and just as importantly, a fine example of reconciliation in action that should inspire and serve as an example for us all – particularly as we work to bring to life our new Strategic Plan, [kahkiyaw kiwâhkômâkani-nawak](#).

I encourage you to watch 10 Days of Cree, share it with others both on campus and beyond, and visit Mr Zarry's ["Canadian Languages" Facebook page](#) for updates as to when the next instalments in the series will be available.

An uplifting "song of hope" by the University of Regina Choirs

A University like ours lives not only for the creation and transmission of knowledge, but for the creation and transmission of culture . . . and beauty.

This week the University of Regina Choirs posted a [virtual performance](#) on Youtube. Dr Melissa Morgan, who directs the choirs, explains the context:

"Bright Morning Star," arranged by Fred Squatrito, was to be performed by the University of Regina Concert Choir at our April 5, 2020 concert. Sadly, the concert, along with so many other events around the world, was cancelled due to the world wide period of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus spread and many people were experiencing the sorrow, loneliness and pain of isolation - it became apparent that perhaps the UR choirs could offer a song to the world. The purpose behind choosing "Bright Morning Star" as the performance piece for Virtual Choir 2 was to provide a song of hope for our listeners.

May peace be with all who hear our music.

Please watch and hear this musical and textual beauty from members of the University community . . . and then share it with family and friends.

Since March, we have gone through a great deal together. As signalled by this "song of hope," our teaching, learning, research, creation, and re-creation will serve our students, the University community, and our province as together we navigate what is to come.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase  
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

**Aug 21: Mention of URSU Town Hall but not E-Proctoring**

**Interim President's Friday message to campus: 21 August 2020**

From [Student Affairs](#) on 2020-08-21 18:08

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

### **Interim President's Friday message to campus: 21 August 2020**

- Maximum accreditation for the Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Program
- Reminder - Masks/face coverings become mandatory on U of R campuses on Tuesday 1 September
- A thank-you to students

Dear members of the University community,

Maximum accreditation for the Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Program

Last week, the Faculty of Nursing – and indeed the entire University and province – received some positive news. Based on a site visit and a subsequent evaluation, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) has granted the maximum seven-year accreditation to the Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Program (CNPP) jointly offered by the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. In addition to the Program, both our Faculty of Nursing's Educational Unit and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic School of Nursing's Education Unit received accredited status.

Pilot accreditation for nurse practitioner programs began in 2020. As a result of participating in this pilot, the CNPP is the first program in Saskatchewan and one of the first nurse practitioner programs in Canada to receive this accreditation, which affirms excellence in nurse practitioner education.

In its accreditation letter, CASN recognized the strength of the nurse practitioner program and the units that deliver it. This strength stems from the hard work and vision demonstrated by many at the University and SaskPoly, including Regina- and Saskatoon-based faculty, staff, and leaders such as former Dean Dr David Gregory and current Interim Dean Dr Robin Evans. Through excellent faculty hires, quality teaching, and high-impact research that is making a difference in our healthcare system, our Nursing program has grown and matured over the past decade – proving its value to the people of the province.

Congratulations and thanks to all involved!



Reminder - Masks/face coverings become mandatory on U of R campuses on Tuesday 1 September

In my message last week, I noted that effective Tuesday 1 September, non-medical masks/face coverings will be mandatory at the University of Regina in all public and shared spaces where two-metre physical distancing may be difficult to maintain (washrooms, hallways, classrooms, laboratories, studios, shared offices and workspaces, stairwells, elevators, etc.). Until that date, the use of masks/face coverings remains strongly recommended in these areas.

As well, we continue to encourage students, faculty, staff and members of the public to come to campus only if absolutely necessary – both now and as the Fall 2020 term gets under way.

The Health, Safety and Wellness team has prepared [comprehensive information and guidelines](#) regarding masks/face coverings and their usage on our campuses. It includes guidelines on recommended types, where they are required, and how to properly put on, wear, and remove them.

Please review this information in advance of 1 September. In conjunction with other measures including proper hand hygiene and physical distancing, masks/face coverings are an important means of reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection.

Thank you in advance for making the health and safety of others both in our University community and beyond our first priority.

A thank-you to students

In recent messages to campus, I have thanked various groups who have worked hard to keep the University's central activities of teaching and research running during the pandemic. Today I wish to thank our students.

I had the opportunity to speak with a number of you earlier this week at a virtual town hall session held by the University of Regina Students' Union. As I and other members of the University Executive Team answered your questions about the Fall 2020 term, I was struck by a number of things.

I was impressed by the commitment URSU President Gurjinder Singh Lehal and other members of the URSU executive demonstrate toward their fellow students. Gurjinder, it is a pleasure to work with you and your colleagues to advance the work of students, faculty and staff. You represent the best of our University.

Also apparent at the town hall was the degree to which our students are committed to having the best possible academic experience under circumstances that are not ideal. As students, you are well aware of the constraints the pandemic has placed upon everyone, and you have demonstrated a great deal of patience and resilience since the teaching and learning environment at our University changed so dramatically in mid-March. The past several months have been challenging for you, and I want to thank you for the grace with which you continue to navigate these circumstances.

That said, I know you are concerned about a number of things. You are concerned about the quality of the academic experience you will have in Fall 2020 and beyond. You are concerned about your physical health and safety, and that of your family and friends in the wider community. And you are concerned about the mental health impacts the pandemic may be having on you and others.

Please know that as individuals and as a collective, the University of Regina supports you. Countless faculty and staff have been working behind the scenes to ensure that as you undertake your coursework for Fall 2020 – at a distance in the vast majority of cases - your personal and academic wellbeing will remain our utmost priority.

Like every one of you, I look forward to the day when it is safe to welcome large numbers of students, faculty, staff and members of the public back to our campuses for all of the academic, cultural, social, and recreational activities that have been the traditional hallmarks of the university experience.

But I need to be frank: I do not know precisely when it will be. That day will arrive, and hopefully sooner rather than later. In the meantime, thank you for your patience, your commitment to the University of Regina, and your efforts to safeguard the health of our provincial, local, and University communities.

I wish you all the best as you prepare for the Fall 2020 term.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase  
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

