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## College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture\_BIO 431 Emerging Infectious Diseases COVID-19 Response Email

Allison Gardner

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Robin Delcourt &lt;umprovost@maine.edu&gt;

## Pandemic

**Allison Gardner** <allison.gardner@maine.edu>  
To: UMaine Provost <umprovost@maine.edu>

Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 10:53 AM

Good morning,

I'm an Assistant Professor in the School of Biology and Ecology and I'm teaching BIO 431: Emerging Infectious Diseases this semester, a capstone course that I developed and have instructed since my first year at UMaine. I'm not sure what sort of information you're looking for, but since early February I've incorporated updates and discussion of COVID-19 into the course, and since early March I've revised the course fairly extensively to better relate the concepts and tools I cover in the course to current events. This has been a very poignant semester to be teaching this class.

I also want to express an interest in teaching a new course open to students from all majors focused entirely on the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2022, when we hopefully will be starting to come to terms with how the virus has impacted society and we have a better understanding of the socio-ecological conditions that drove the spillover of SARS-CoV-2 and its subsequent spread in human populations. I would want the course to be open to everyone, with no enrollment cap, ideally streamed online to alumni for free (or for a suggested donation to UMaine). I would lead some of the lectures, and for other class sessions, I would bring in interdisciplinary guest lecturers from fields as diverse as ecology, microbiology, mathematics, economics, tourism, business, psychology, and nursing. I also would want to conduct conversations with campus and state leaders about the decision-making surrounding the crisis as part of the course. These students have experienced an unprecedented moment in history that I think can be used as an opportunity about the importance of interdisciplinary learning and a liberal education to understand society's greatest contemporary challenges.

Best,  
Allie Gardner

On Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 9:26 AM UMaine Provost <umprovost@maine.edu> wrote:

### Good day to you all:

**Define Tomorrow** is the [initiative](#) that is asking you to send a sketch of an idea for reorganization, reduction of expenses, and/or increases to revenues. Please take a moment and submit your ideas via email to [umprovost@maine.edu](mailto:umprovost@maine.edu) or anonymously via the [form](#) on the initiative website.

**Getting to Tomorrow, Together**, is an internally produced message (so nice to see Marketing and Communications!) that aired with the President's tour on Tuesday night. It reminds me of the strength of UMaine and its people: <https://youtu.be/Z4dB2dRyJZs> Hope you take 30 seconds to enjoy that view of our community.

In the hopes that faculty will help get the news to students, there are 3 items:

1. Students are wondering if faculty will allow them to select pass/fail for a course. Students can elect pass/fail for any undergraduate course at UMaine this term. It may make a difference in their ability to return to us. So, please, share the link students can use to opt in to pass/fail if that works for them. So far, about 200 students have chosen pass/fail for at least one course. The pass/fail process: *Download a form* from the Student Records website, *fill it out* (electronically), and email it to Student Records *from your maine.edu email account (not a Gmail or other account)* to make the change official. a) To select the pass/fail grade option, go to [the Student Records website](#) and select the button labeled "Pass/Fail Protocol – Spring 2020." (Or go to <https://studentrecords.umaine.edu/pass-fail-protocol-spring-2020/>). This page provides a link to the [Student Selected Pass/Fail Request Form](#). b) *Using your UMS (maine.edu) email account*, send the completed form to Student Records at [umrecord@maine.edu](mailto:umrecord@maine.edu).
2. Students are asking how to return a rental textbook to University Bookstore: contact **207.581-1728** [um.bookstore@maine.edu](mailto:um.bookstore@maine.edu)
3. Students are wondering who to contact with questions. The phone number and email for assistance - **207.581.2681**; [umaine.alerts@maine.edu](mailto:umaine.alerts@maine.edu) — are on the UMaine homepage COVID-19 banner and on the

UMaine coronavirus website: <https://umaine.edu/coronavirus/>. Also note the remote learner resources page: <https://online.umaine.edu/remote-learner-resources/>

Next, there are 3 items for faculty:

1. Brightspace is on target to begin September 1, 2020. [CITL has workshops](#) this April and May. Please prepare for flexible course offerings for this fall and work on the transition to Brightspace ahead of time.
2. Are you including lessons or discussions about the Pandemic in your course work? We want to capture that information. Please send it to [umprovost@maine.edu](mailto:umprovost@maine.edu) with Pandemic as the subject line.
3. Have you used an effective process to present material for a course, laboratory, or enriched experience? Have you captured an effective method to engage students? We want to capture and share that information. Please send it to [umprovost@maine.edu](mailto:umprovost@maine.edu) with Course Successes as the subject line.

Finally, for all of us: A video from Cooperative Extension and their impact on our farmers: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dn9qvm\\_vgtA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dn9qvm_vgtA&feature=youtu.be). UMaine is meeting the needs of the people of the state in so many different ways. The three-minute video was donated by the producer. If you have a break in your zoom, teaching tasks, and email today, it's worth watching.

Thank you for all you are doing to help students complete this term and to prepare for the next. Working together, we will come through this time with new ideas to enrich learning and the quality of our lives.

Sincerely,

Faye W. Gilbert, Ph.D.  
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, and  
Dean of the Undergraduate School of Business  
University of Maine

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