A reentry task force has been appointed by Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, to recommend processes for moving the university forward amid the COVID-19 crisis.

The pandemic caused the university to complete spring semester classes online, and Maymester and summer semester classes will continue online. Decisions are pending for the resumption of events and activities, as well as how fall classes will be conducted.

“This is a broad-based task force that’s following the evolving coronavirus situation and the potential scenarios that could develop as we look to fully reopen the university,” Carver said.

The task force is divided into subcommittees that will forward recommendations for consideration by the university’s senior leadership team.

The task force will consider possible scenarios, including fully opening the university in August, a delayed opening with an online start to fall semester and a physical return mid-semester. Also, being considered is a completely online operation.

Carver charged the task force to consider the following when making recommendations: teaching and student success, residence halls and public gathering places, research, employee safety, visitors, outreach and programs, and infrastructure and processes.

“I’m pleased with the university’s response to this unprecedented situation,” Carver said. “I’m especially impressed how our faculty and students adjusted quickly to the online learning environment. We’ll persevere together and emerge stronger on the other side of this crisis.”

Members of the task force are:
- Chairs: Philip Smartt, Faculty/Agriculture; Shannon Deal, Student Health and Counseling.
- Advisers to the Chairs: Holly Rowan, emergency management protocols; Laura Foltz, budget considerations and assignments.
- Membership:
  - John Blue, Student Affairs/Boling University Center;
  - Emalee Buttrey, Faculty/Agriculture;
  - Ashley Bynum, Intercollegiate Athletics;
  - David Carithers, Faculty/English Department Chair;
  - Kiara Castleman, Academic Records;
  - Bonnie Daniel, Information Technology Center/Canvas course delivery;
  - Olivia Fernandez, Information Technology Services;
  - Deb Gibson, Faculty/Health and Human Performance;
  - Katie High, Interim Dean, College of Business and Global Affairs;
  - Bud Grimes, University Relations;
  - Ryan Martin, Residence Life;
  - Tim Nipp, Facilities;
  - Ali Sabahi, Faculty/Biological Sciences;
  - Anderson Starling, Faculty/Political Science;
  - Mike Swaim, Alumnus/Pharmacist;
  - Destin Tucker, Undergraduate Admissions;
  - Michael Washington, Human Resources;
  - Erin Weber, Paul Meek Library.

In addition to the main campus, UT Martin manages centers in Jackson, Parsons, McNairy County/Selmer, Ripley and Somerville.

Information about UT Martin’s response to the COVID-19 crisis is available at www.utm.edu/coronavirus. Additional information is available through Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

**Jahr, Donavant receive Spring 2020 Outstanding Employee awards**

Tara Jahr, of the Department of Public Safety, and Lori Donavant, of Business Services, were awarded the Spring 2020 Outstanding Employee Awards for their dedication and service to the UT Martin community.

Jahr has served the Department of Public Safety for 17 years as the Traffic Office manager and in her time has incorporated new methods and procedures to improve the efficiency and overall experience of the traffic office. Jahr also works one-on-one with public safety’s student workers to ensure their safety on the job.

“Tara is an extremely important asset to the university and her contributions are subjectively immeasurable,” wrote coworkers in her nomination letter. “The information she provides to customers relevant to their account/concerns or general information encompassing all facets of university illustrates this. She goes way beyond her required duties to assist in any way she can. Why? Because that’s just Tara!”

Donavant has worked in Business Services for 21 years, beginning as the
In Memory

Dr. Preston Prather, retired Professor Emeritus of Education, died April 25 at the age of 85. Prather served as the director of the Center of Excellence for Science and Mathematics Education in his time at UT Martin. In addition to his time at UT Martin, he had served on the faculty of the University of Georgia, the University of Virginia, and was the recipient of numerous academic awards. He and his wife, Mary, lived in Laramie, Wyoming. Memorials may be sent to Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Hyungju Hur, assistant professor of history died April 26. Hur came to UT Martin in 2014 and taught Modern China, Japan and Development of World Civilization. She received both her master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she specialized in the history of late imperial China, modern China, the history of Tokugawa Japan, and modern Japan. Hur is survived by her husband, Chris Posadny, adjunct instructor of English at UT Martin.

YoUTMs

Dr. Bob Peckham, Professor of French Emeritus, attended the Tennessee Foreign Language Teachers Association annual meeting in Franklin, where he was a section organizer of “Lead with Song - The Heart’s in Your Voice,” for which he researched North American Francophone Music, and led audience participation, as a vocal/instrumental performer, songwriter and methodological commentator. As founding editor of Société François Villon, he produced its 35th annual issue in January. Frédéric Effe reviewed this work in “Parution du 35ème Bulletin de la Société François Villon,” Moyen-âge passion. Peckham also wrote a guest article, “The Survival of Foreign-Language Learning in a Post-Covidian Future” in a national education blog: Language Matters which can be read at https://kathleensteinsmith.wordpress.com/.

UT Martin Zoom backgrounds

Working from home but want to feel like you’re back on campus? Check out these UT Martin-themed Zoom backgrounds featuring the campus during the prettiest times of the year. Click the photo of Dr. Keith Carver to view the gallery.

Addenda is published biweekly during the summer. Click here to submit.
COMMENCEMENT - In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty it has brought to UT Martin, commencement, while a little untraditional, was still held in honor of more than 700 UT Martin graduates Saturday, May 2 via live-stream in front of the Hall-Moody Administration building. The event was closed to the public and was led by Chancellor Keith Carver, Provost Philip Acree Cavalier and the university’s academic deans. The event drew 722 YouTube views, approximately 1,700 live views and 36,000 views on Facebook, and also generated 538 shares. More than 700 students were eligible to receive degrees, and more than 400 submitted photographs that were streamed following the conferral of degrees by Carver. Carver, Cavalier, UT President Randy Boyd, SGA President Devin Majors and UT Martin Alumni Council President Amy West addressed the students during the ceremony to congratulate them on their achievements recognized during graduation. For more information, view the full story at www.utm.edu/news/2020/05/04/ut-martin-brings-commencement-to-may-graduates/.
UT Martin faculty mentors help graduate 10 University Scholars

Drs. Clint Ary and Emalee Buttrey mentored Kaitlyn Courtney in her University Scholars research project titled “Analysis of Necropsy Data on West Tennessee.” Courtney did not submit post-graduation plans.

Drs. Ross Pruitt and Brian Carroll mentored Kaitlyn Melton in her University Scholars research project titled “Interaction of Willingness to Pay for Gene Edited Products and Physical Activity.” Melton did not submit post-graduation plans.

Drs. Emalee Buttrey and Clint Ary mentored Marissa Parks in her University Scholars research project titled “Analyzing the Physiological Impacts of Diet in Cats.” Parks will continue her Veterinary Technician degree this summer.

Dr. Tommy Cates and Christian Bushardt mentored Emily Reber in her University Scholars research project titled “Marketing Strategies & Small Business Management: The Growth of Teddy Kay Studio.” Reber will pursue her MBA at UT Martin or Mississippi State University this fall.

Drs. Ali Sabahi and Jack Grubaugh mentored Cherie Saffold in her University Scholars research project titled “Molecular Determinants of Alphavirus Replication Fidelity.” Saffold will pursue her Ph.D. in biomedical science at Vanderbilt University.
Drs. Paula Gale and Barbara Darroch mentored Michael Singer in his University Scholars research project titled “Phosphorus Dynamics in Soils of a Wetland Restoration Site on the Forked Deer River.” Singer has accepted a position as a soil scientist with the USDA NRCS in Homer, Alaska.

Drs. Jeff Longacre and Lynn Alexander mentored Hailey Slaughter in her University Scholars research project titled “High School is Hell: An Analysis of Killer Teenage Girls in Horror Films.” Slaughter will pursue her master’s degree in library science from UT Knoxville.

Drs. Diana Watson and Jason Roberts mentored Hunter Wanser in her University Scholars research project titled “Overflowing Animal Shelters: Why Owners Relinquish Dogs and Cats in West Tennessee.” Wanser will complete an internship this summer at a veterinary office.

Drs. Clint Ary and Jason Roberts mentored Miles Wilbur in his University Scholars research project titled “Small Ruminant Parasites in West Tennessee.” Wilbur will attend UT Knoxville Veterinary School to study large animal medicine and bovine reproduction.

Drs. Robbie Montgomery and Phillip Shelton mentored Erin Young in her University Scholars research project titled “Dynamic Isoelectric Focusing Proteins Related to Heart Disease.” Young will attend the UT Health Science Center College of Medicine in the fall.
You Tell Me

• **Question** – What construction is happening along University Street and how long is it expected to last?

• **Answer** – The city of Martin received a pedestrian safety grant through the TDOT Transportation Alternatives Program, of roughly $2 million, to construct sidewalks in Martin in a multi-phase project. The current projects, Phases V and VI, are sidewalks being constructed between Lovelace Ave. and Mt Pelia Road. Brad Thompson, director of Community Development, said the construction contract is through January 2021, but can be expected to be completed early. Phases I-IV of the construction plan are already complete, Phase VII was approved in 2019, and Phase VIII was submitted in January.

Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu/suggestionbox.