

WILLIAM E. BOEING  
DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS & ASTRONAUTICS  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## Town Hall – Spring 2020


Professor Kristi A. Morgansen (she/her)  
April 6, 2020



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### Land Acknowledgement


We acknowledge the Coast Salish peoples of this land on which we gather, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations. We respectfully acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the generations.



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### Live questions and upvoting

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### Topics

- > COVID-19 impacts and Big Picture
- > IT update: David Wilson
- > Q&A
- > Department website:  
<https://www.aa.washington.edu/coronavirus>




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### Be Kind

- > Everyone is stressed
  - Anxiety
  - Mental health
  - Grieving
- > Many have limited resources
  - Income
  - Childcare
  - Illness




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### Stay Home, Stay Healthy

- > Governor Inslee’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” directive is in effect until at least May 4.
  - And it is working!
- > Spring quarter instruction 100% online.
- > Nobody knows what will happen in the next weeks, and changes often happen quickly.
  - Be aware that the error bars on likely options are HUGE.



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### Spring Quarter Teaching Impacts

- > Zoom – it's what we have. None of the options are perfect.
- > Courses include synchronous and asynchronous options.
- > Instructors are exploring a number of options (we're all learning as we go).
  - Regular checkins with instructors, TAs and students
  - Common understanding on academic honesty in an online world.



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### Spring Quarter Teaching Impacts: Major Changes

- > Undergrads
  - JUNIORS: AA 460 moved to Spring, AA 322 moved to Autumn
  - SENIORS: Capstone direction shifts
  - Research: for-credit undergrad research paused
- > Grads
  - All courses, exams, defenses: online only
- > Instructors have wide latitude for course design, syllabi, grading, etc.



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### Spring Quarter Teaching Impacts: More Details

- > Teaching and instruction at universities is a critical state activity and, as required, faculty and TA's may need to periodically access on-campus technologies to support instruction
- > No UW employee will be required to come on campus and everyone has been given remote work options



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### Spring Quarter Teaching: How Can You Help?

- > **Students:** Please know we are doing our very best. Thank you in advance for patience and understanding and bringing us concerns and areas of improvement in healthy and productive ways.
- > **Faculty:** Thank you for your efforts so far – please continue to develop contingency plans and be flexible in your approach, especially for core classes
- > **Graduate TAs:** Thank you in advance for your quick adoption of technology and stepping up to help make sure our students are learning and classes are running smoothly
- > **Staff:** Continue your *amazing* efforts to help us prepare, especially IT and advising. Thank you!



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### Research Impacts

- > With very few exceptions, all AA research is now 100% remote and our labs are shut down
- > The SHSH orders provided for certain types of essential person research to continue. Partial list of examples:
  - COVID-19 related research
  - Research that is essential for Spring Q graduate student thesis/dissertation defenses
  - Research related to national security interests
- > UW AA worked closely with the UW to identify all qualifying research in advance of the SHSH



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### Research Impacts: When Can It Continue?

- > In person research can only continue if ALL of the following are met:
  - It qualifies as "essential research". Faculty had to request to me and be approved before this could happen.
  - Research personnel (RAs and postdocs) have been given remote work opportunities and are still willing to come to campus. We are taking great efforts to make sure everyone is informed of their option to remain at home.
  - All previous EH&S consideration for the lab work can continue to be met
  - All new public health guidelines such as social distancing and frequent washing of surfaces will be followed
- > We have identified critical employees who either need to access campus to maintain facilities or are may be continuing in person research and have communicated with them



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### Research Impacts: What Is Remote Research?

- > The university is not in suspended operations
- > If you are a research employee (RA or postdoc), your supervisor has/will be working with you to develop plans for at least the next two weeks
- > Restrictions on job tasks have been eased and your PI may reasonably change what you are asked to work on (e.g., help with writing a literature review in a new area in preparation of a grant proposal)
- > Research in AA is incredibly diverse and takes many forms, there is no "one size fits all". This will look very different in every research group.



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### Research Impacts: How Can You Help?

- > **Faculty:** Make every effort to provide your grad students with clear instructions and regular feedback. Social isolation is very challenging for many of our students and use Zoom or other options for regular group check-ins.
- > **Grad Students:** Make every effort to adapt best practices for at-home work. I know this is the first time for many of you. You can find many resources online or contact us for guidance.
- > **Staff:** Continue your great efforts and contributions, now from home. Please be extra understanding of unintentional miscommunications and bring areas of improvement to your supervisors right away.



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### Staff and Operations: More of the Same!

- > Thanks to leadership by AA administrator Rachel Reichert, the staff are extremely well prepared for the current moment.
- > All staff should have adequate technology solutions, telework arrangements and regular communications with each other.
- > We are awaiting guidance on performance evaluations and other potential impacts.
- > You are already going above and beyond and helping so much. Thank you!



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### Facilities: Gug/AERB Closed to Almost Everyone

- > Unless you have been designated by Rachel Reichert or me as a "UW Critical Personnel", do not come to campus while the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is in effect
- > Unless you are an RA/TA, have been designated as CP, and you are 100% willing to come to campus: All students are to remain out of GUG/AERB, even if you have a key/CAAMS access.



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### Additional Resources and Obtaining Support

- > **Students:** If you or a student you know is in financial need for technology support, please contact the advising staff immediately. There are UW programs for support as well as department resources.
- > **Postdocs and RAs:** Be in close contact with your PI.
- > **Staff:** Your supervisor and Rachel Reichert.
- > **Faculty:** Me and Dean Allbritton.
- > Anyone in the AAE community with COVID-19/coronavirus concerns that are not being addressed to their satisfaction can contact me at any time.



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### Closing Thoughts

- > This is really hard
- > Everyone needs to put extra effort into self-care right now
- > UW wellbeing and mental health services are continuing. Please use them if needed <https://wellbeing.uw.edu/topic/mental-health/>
- > Do your best, take extra time to treat each other well, give extra grace when people around you make accidental mistakes and things will be OK



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**A&A IT**

> David Wilson



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**Q&A**

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