

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2009

TO: Joel Sipress, Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Faith C. Hensrud, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

RE: H1N1 Flu: Impact on teaching and learning

As we enter the Fall flu season, it has become apparent that the H1N1 flu virus is striking earlier than initially anticipated. We must all work to ensure that we are able to fulfill our teaching, research and service mission. As a part of our pandemic planning process, UW-Superior has a group of individuals meeting on a weekly basis to try to remain proactive during the flu season. I represent Academic Affairs on the campus H1N1 flu team

Because of the H1N1 virus, last week the Board of Regents relaxed the policy that requires university employees to provide a doctor's excuse for absences in excess of 5 days. This change occurred because of the nature of N1H1, and the desire to NOT have normally healthy individuals going to the doctor or emergency room. Requiring these doctor visits would place a burden on the Nation's health system.

From an academic perspective, several areas of concern have been raised, and I ask that Faculty Senate discuss these at the Senate meeting on September 22, 2009.

Classroom Attendance Policy

Faculty are to review their classroom attendance policies to ensure that policies do not penalize students who are absent from class due to illness. These policies must not require a doctor's excuse, and students must be given sufficient opportunity to make up work. Changes to your classroom attendance policy should be communicated to students early so they know NOT to attend class when they are ill.

Children of students in the classroom

1. Students who must miss class to care for a sick family member must not be penalized for missing classes. Faculty are to review classroom attendance policies to ensure that excused absences are provided and sufficient opportunity is available to make up work.
2. It is possible that local K-12 schools will cancel classes if the outbreak becomes severe. What policies might we need to develop to either encourage or deter UW-Superior students from taking their well children with them into their UW-Superior classes?

Use of Learn@UW-Superior (Desire2Learn)

Encourage the use of D2L or some other electronic means to post assignments or other class materials as appropriate for student who are ill.

Other issues: UW-System is considering the development of a set of Q&A's around some specific areas. Those related to academics include:

- What are the numbers of class weeks and/or hours that must be lost before a semester or course is cancelled?
- What is the number of weeks by which a semester can be moved or adjusted?
- What alternative teaching arrangements are available (online or self-study)?
- What rules must be followed for allowing students to make-up exams or assignments?
- What rules must be followed for giving a student an incomplete?

Additionally, I ask that Faculty Senate help to identify other potential issues that we should address related to a potential H1N1 outbreak.

Members of the Campus H1N1 flu team include:

- Peggy Fecker, Human Resources
- Vicki Hajewski, Dean of Students
- Jan Hanson, Administration and Finance
- Faith Hensrud, Academic Affairs
- Carol Lindberg, Environmental Safety and Health
- Al Miller, Communications
- Dawn Schulze, Health and Counseling Services

C: Chancellor Julius Erlenbach
Provost Chris Markwood