Dear Colleagues:

As the campus expects that most instruction will continue remotely for the rest of this academic year, I’d like to thank you for your ongoing flexibility and sensitivity to students dealing with illness, internet connectivity issues and other challenges. I’d also like to bring your attention to additional concerns to keep in mind moving forward.

Students are spread throughout the world during remote instruction, and instructors cannot easily assess how secure students feel engaging with sensitive discussions or course materials depending on their family environment or political conditions in their home countries.

The Senate Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE) recommends instructors consider the following privacy and safety measures as appropriate for their courses:

- Do not require that video be turned on for discussions
- Allow students to discuss potentially sensitive topics one-on-one rather than in group discussions
- Include a warning on syllabi if your class contains potentially sensitive material
- When feasible, encourage students to enroll in the class when we return to in-person instruction if it contains potentially sensitive material
- Be aware that students may not be able to access some course materials freely due to family constraints or internet restrictions in their home countries

Thank you for your consideration of these issues, and all the best in the new year.

Best wishes,

Jeffrey Barrett, Chair
Academic Senate – Irvine Division