

April 6, 2021

Dear Future Researcher,

Many students will undoubtedly contribute their recollections of Taylor during Covid-19. This letter is meant to offer the perspective of one faculty member, although I imagine my experiences were not unique to me.

One of the greatest losses after March 2020 was the lack of personal interaction with students. I had very few students visit my office during office hours in Fall of 2020. Although there may be several reasons for that, I expect one of them was concern about 1:1 interactions. Another factor might be that I did not connect as well during class time as I normally do. If the students did not feel a personal connection during class (due to masks, several "online" days, distancing, etc.), perhaps they did not want to risk seeing me alone! I was also not able to have any meals or coffee meetings with students. I usually average 4-5 of these per semester.

Finally, like many of the students, I experienced a quarantine in late October 2020. Because I had been in close contact with a Taylor person who tested positive, I received an email telling me to quarantine. I received the message early Monday morning when I came into my office. Although I was not too concerned about contracting the coronavirus, I felt I needed to follow the university's policies. Thus, I quickly packed my things and returned home for the next week. I created some "narrated powerpoints" for my students in the US history survey and met via zoom with my American Religious History class.

Although my experiences were not dramatic, I hope they contribute to the picture of what the faculty faced in this particular season.

I write this now in the spring of 2021 on the day that I received my first vaccine shot.



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