The first weeks of the Fall semester have been a challenging and exciting time at Kent State. Thank you for your extensive preparation and planning for this semester. Your efforts have contributed significantly to the success of the university’s reopening. As instructors, you play a critical role in the life of students in supporting their academic success, especially now. We encourage you to continue to play an active role in supporting student success now more than ever.

Students are providing a lot of feedback about their experiences during this unusual semester. Overwhelmingly, they are happy to be here, both in person and in virtual spaces. They are working hard to adapt to new ways of teaching and learning. Not surprisingly, an ongoing thread that we are hearing from students is their desire for more interaction with faculty members and other students, especially in classes that were moved from face-to-face to remote instruction.

We hope that the information about remote instruction that was shared during the summer has been helpful to you. The Academic Affairs Response to COVID-19 website includes valuable information on teaching remotely, FAQs for Faculty and “How do I Teach Remote Course” are also available on the Keep On Teaching website. The Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Continuing and Distance Education are also available to meet with you individually to brainstorm ideas for more interactive assignments for your students or to explore creative ways of scheduling your office hours for a more interactive experience with you.

If you were unable to find what you need at the links above, don’t worry! You can send questions about remote teaching or anything related to the University’s reopening or COVID-19, directly to the Provost’s Mailbox. Email sent to this mailbox is monitored regularly. You will receive a timely answer to your question(s).

During the COVID-19 pandemic our health and safety risk tolerance, as well as our ability to adapt to professional and personal challenges may change over time. This is also true for our students, colleagues, and family members. Please be attentive to your physical and mental health. Reach out to your academic unit administrator or regional campus dean if you need
help with something related to your classes or concerning any other issues or concerns to the extent you feel comfortable doing so.

Thank you for taking care of yourselves. Thank you for taking care of our students.

Melody Tankersley
Interim Senior Vice President and Provost

Pamela Grimm
Chair, Faculty Senate

Deborah C. Smith
AAUP-KSU Chapter President

Tracy Laux
FTNTT Unit President, AAUP-KSU