supporting our graduate students

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Hello SoHE Faculty

We had a very productive Townhall meeting with SoHE graduate students last week. We wanted to follow up with all faculty about a few issues:

1. We encourage mentors/advisors to reach out to their students and maintain good communication over the next few months. While good communication is always essential, this is especially true in light of COVID-19 and ongoing planning for the fall. Check in with your students about any program, scholarship, and funding needs. For some students, COVID-19 may mean altering original plans and milestone timelines.

2. Communication is especially critical for our incoming and current international students. Students were given the following message: Students who are concerned that they cannot get to Madison this fall should be in communication with their advisors, department chairs, and the Graduate Program Coordinator (Lauren Feiner). For some students (e.g. dissertators), it may be possible to complete program activities, training, and TA/PA/fellowships from afar. However, this may not be possible for other students and for some TA/PA/fellowship positions. So, communication is the best way to let us know what is going on so we can problem solve together.

   The UW–Madison Graduate School has provided the following information regarding International Students: International Student Services – immigration documents, travel and re-entry, employment authorization, health and safety, and more: iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/health/covid-19-update

   New FAQs available on the Graduate School admissions page: grad.wisc.edu/apply/#covid19faq

3. In light of all that is going on in the world, and recent events in Madison, it is important to let our graduate students know that they are supported, valued, and part of our community.

Hope all are staying safe and healthy.

Sigan Hartley and Lauren Feiner