Dear Students,

What complicated and difficult times! The rise in cases of COVID-19 has definitely changed our way of life. Please know that your GA responsibilities must be modified to allow you the option to work remotely. As part of this, I know many of you have been transitioning your courses to online; I know this is not an easy task and greatly appreciate your commitment to your teaching responsibilities.

For those of you that are graduating this semester or in the summer, please do not forget about upcoming deadlines (posted to the left column). The May graduation has been rescheduled to be in August; the exact date has not yet been identified. The College of Arts and Sciences realizes how disappointed you are about not having a May graduation, but please know that we will make your August graduation special!

If you find yourself in a situation that you do not know how to handle, please feel free to reach out to me for assistance. As always, I am here to help you.

Please stay safe. I wish all the best for you and your family.

Dr. Janet R. Donaldson
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education
Change in Grading Scheme

Dr. Chasteen recently notified you of changes to the grading options for this semester. This is a one-time opportunity that you will have and it will only apply to full length semester courses or 8 week II courses. Please note that your instructor will first provide you with your course grade, then you will need to notify the instructor if you wish to change the grade to one of the following options:

**Z Grade:** Means “Pass” and satisfies all pre-requisite requirements. Has no GPA impact. Can replace grades of B+, B, or B- at the graduate level.

**PS Grades:** Means “Pass.” Has no GPA impact. Can replace grades of C+ or C at the graduate level.

**NP Grades:** Means “No Pass” and does not give any class credit. Has no GPA impact. Can replace grades of C- or below at the graduate level.

Resources Available

(Hyperlinks provided in blue)

• **Office of the Provost** - provides up-to-date information on USM operations

• Issues with Internet? Follow this [link](#).

• Worried about taking your class online? Follow this [link](#) for helpful hints and tips.

• Feeling anxious about the changes that COVID-19 has imposed on your life? Follow this link to contact [Counseling Services](#)