



DATE: June 6, 2020

TO: Cynthia Kosso and members of the President's Cabinet

FROM: Diane Husic, on behalf of the SNHS faculty

RE: Resumption of Scientific Research – Collier and the “Sally”

Discovery and the creation of new knowledge through research is an essential part of higher education and the outcomes can have important benefits for not only the participants in the endeavor and the institution, but also for society at large. Not only does research have the potential to provide transformative solutions for complex problems, but it can also be a transformative experience for students, especially in the apprenticeship model of faculty-student collaboration used at Moravian College. Engaging undergraduates in authentic scholarly work often also provides faculty members with fresh insights into the research questions that they are investigating.¹

Within the sciences, much of this research requires access to specialized laboratory facilities and equipment. Due to COVID-19, stay-at-home orders from the governor had closed the campus since March 2020, and thus, the science faculty and their students have not been able to conduct their research. With Northampton County moving into the yellow phase on June 5th and the [PDE Reopening Guidance](#) that was issued on June 4th, we are now authorized to gradually reopen campus. With the extensive planning work that has occurred over the past several weeks to review guidelines from the CDC and other institutions and to develop sound safety protocols for Moravian College laboratory and clinical work, Hassan Rone and I believe that it is now safe to allow a limited number of science faculty and their SOAR or Honors students, back into the laboratory spaces in Collier Hall of Science and the Sally Breidegam Miksiewicz Center for Health Sciences. Thus, **I am requesting permission to allow science research to resume for a limited number of faculty and students who have demonstrated that they understand and will comply with the following guiding principles and safe protocols that we have established.**

Guiding principles:

1. The safety of members of the college community and the Lehigh Valley population is of paramount importance. This is true in the time of COVID, as well as for all our work in the science and health fields.
2. Planning and operating protocols are grounded in science and CDC guidance regarding both good laboratory practice with infectious agents and specific information about SARS-CoV-2 and its observed manifestations in City of Bethlehem and Northampton County.

¹ Abraham, N., Cunningham, BA, Decatur, S., Dehn, P., Lee, M. and Osborn, JM. “Supporting Potentially Transformative Research: The Administrator’s Perspective.” In [Transformative Research at Predominately Undergraduate Institutions](#), p. 71. Council on Undergraduate Research (Washington, D.C. 2010).

3. Moravian faculty and students are currently involved in research initiatives, including national and international collaborations which are largely sustained through summer research.
4. The careers of many faculty and students at the College depend on the ability to continue ongoing and initiate new research activities. Summer student research experiences are gateways to skills-based and intellectual development that buttresses their candidacy for professional school, graduate school, and the workforce.

To this end, we have developed the following documents in a [shared drive](#):

1. **Guidelines for the Resumption of Summer Research in the Laboratory Sciences**
2. **A Personnel Daily Log** – This allows us to document self-screening and the locations that faculty and students were in each day that they are on campus.
3. **Laboratory Proposal Review Form (for approval to restart a lab)**– Once we have the approval from the President’s Cabinet to reopen the labs on campus, individual researchers will need to complete this approval form to be reviewed by Hassan Rone, Chemical Hygiene and Laboratory Safety Officer and Dr. Diane Husic, Dean, School of Natural and Health Sciences.

Individual researcher and space-specific plans that have been submitted and have been reviewed and tentatively approved by the Dean of the School of Natural and Health Sciences are shared [here](#).

Shared facilities and equipment will require faculty to sign up to reserve the space. This will prevent multiple users utilizing spaces and instruments at the same time, thus reducing the contact between researchers. Although FMPC will be responsible for general cleaning of buildings, faculty and students will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing specialized spaces and equipment.

Prior to any research starting, faculty and students will be required to complete the laboratory safety training that Hassan has developed and attend a group Zoom session with Dean Husic for a COVID-safety review session. Compliance with the adopted protocols is critical for the safety of the campus and broader community. Fail to do so could result in the revoking of summer research privileges.

If you have any questions or if we have failed to address any safety concerns, please contact me via email or my cell: 570-807-7271.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane W. Husic, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Natural and Health Sciences