Faculty Senate July 7, 2020 Zoom Meeting
Questions posted in the Chat Box*

* This document will be updated as needed when new information becomes available.

What can CARES money be used for?

Money may be used on items approved by North Dakota's Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Funds will be used for:

- Classroom Technology - AV equipment such cameras, microphones to enhance general purpose classrooms for better HyFlex experience.
- Smart Podiums - allows instructors to have a virtual whiteboard for presenting formulas, equations, drawings, etc. as well as annotate applications using a stylus from general classroom instructor computers.
- Conference Rooms - equipping departmental conference rooms with AV equipment that is quickly deployed over the summer. Department heads should make requests to IT/Marc Wallman.
- Stipends for faculty – provides funding to support faculty in adapting their courses for delivery simultaneously to differently-located students, or to teach their courses from a distance if they are unable to be in the classroom, as well as plan for students who may become ill and have to isolate for a period of time.
- Laptops and tablets for faculty and staff - provides remote resources for HyFlex teaching and working remotely. Solicitation is through department heads.
- Graduate and Undergraduate assistants – provides funding for Teaching Assistants, Learning Assistants, Class or Exam Proctors, Graders, Studio Assistants, etc. to assist Departments (or teaching faculty) during Fall 2020 to meet instructional needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Digital Signs - a project on behalf of University Police and Safety.
- MU Meeting Rooms - project to equip many of the Memorial Union rooms with HyFlex AV equipment.
- Network infrastructure - updated network equipment in academic buildings in support of HyFlex.
- Zoom - campus site license as an option for HyFlex synchronous learning and teaching, work remotely, and learn remotely.
- Virtual Private Network - technology to better support remote faculty and staff to access NDSU resources related to COVID activities.
- Academic Computing in the Azure Cloud - project working primarily with Computer Science and MIS.
- Residence Hall Wireless modernization - updated wifi in residence halls; provides needed resources for HyFlex.
- Interactive Supercomputing - project that enhances ease of use for researchers new to this technology.
- Equipment for teaching labs - providing quickly deployable AV equipment for departmental academic spaces to deliver HyFlex. Distribution process under assessment and will be through department heads.

- Laptops for staff in Finance and Administration.
- Labster Site License – IT is working with Provost Office to make available to academic departments.

What protocols are you following to ensure the cleanliness of teaching spaces?

Keyboards and Mice
In **classrooms**, cleaning supplies will be provided by Facilities Management for cleaning spaces between classes.

In **computer labs**, protocols are still being determined.

Microphones
Options are under review. These include cleaning, bringing your own microphone, or replaceable foam microphone coverings. This section will be updated as decisions are made.

How will home internet speeds affect remote students?
Based on research done by NDSU's Student Success Programs in the spring of 2020, the vast majority of students (more than 98%) had adequate internet service in the place they were sheltering when NDSU shifted to online only education. The most problematic area appeared to be north central Minnesota. An even higher percentage of students had access to a computer that they could use for online learning.

Note: Students in the residence halls will have excellent Internet service due to upgrades being performed this summer.

How will classes start when the instructor is coming in remotely to the classroom?
Still a work in progress. Our goal is to make this trivially easy. Ideally any student in the room should be able to initiate the class. Even without any technology upgrades it would not be difficult for a student to login to the classroom computer and begin a class on behalf of the instructor.

Are there plans for contact tracing?
All contract tracing is done by the ND Department of Health. NDSU is considering promoting the use of the CARE19 app to facilitate this. A new version is coming out that is much more effective than the current version. Privacy concerns with the new app are extremely low.

Is it possible to require students to indicate if they will be an in-class or online learner throughout the semester?

In preparing your course design not relying on this kind of information is advisable as students may be sick, in quarantine or in isolation for all or part of the semester.

Are there planned summer workshops for HyFlex?
Yes. IT is offering departmental consultations as well as training or videos on specific classroom equipment, online facilitation technologies and workshops on overall classroom approaches including active learning, assessment, and group work. See https://kb.ndsu.edu/103166 for more information.

What is Hyflex?
HyFlex is short for hybrid-flexible. At NDSU, this means each course is built to give students and instructors a choice to attend either in person or remotely. The course still has a physical classroom and synchronous instruction, and the learning outcomes are the same regardless of mode of attendance. It uses existing technologies as well as new ones planned from CARES funding to achieve this. HyFlex is **not** a software package, a learning management system, or a specific pedagogical approach.

Synchronous instruction using online meeting technologies (e.g., Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom) that has a primary gathering space (i.e., a classroom) with some participants coming to the classroom remotely. The instructor may be one of these remote people. The composition of who is in the gathering space and who is remote may change throughout the duration of the class.

Do students understand that them attending in person doesn't necessarily mean the faculty will be there in person, using the Hyflex model?
This is being communicated to students.

Doesn't having students in the classroom and the faculty remote have potential to blow up in our face?
NDSU administration believes that this poses less risk than the alternatives. We are dealing with compromises everywhere we look during this pandemic.

When will I receive training on how to use the technology in the Hyflex classrooms?
Yes. As the equipment is updated in classrooms, IT is developing written and video training for instructors to reference for use.

Can we hire international students as teaching assistants with the ND CARES Fund?
Yes. International undergraduate and graduate students may be hired as teaching assistants, graders, exam proctors, learning assistants.

Do stipends from CARES Fund for lab or class assistant have to be a graduate or undergraduate study? Can other professionals be hired part-time for helping in the class?
CARES Fund can be used to hire graduate and undergraduate students. This fund is not for hiring part-time academics.

Do we need to add a new area for the Hy-Flex teaching model and or COVID in our syllabi?
This not required but it would be an effective way to communicate to students your COVID-19 related expectations and plans. See the optional syllabi checklist for COVID-19.

What happens when students refuse to wear face coverings in class?
Students are required to wear face coverings in the classroom. If a student refuses to do that there are procedures in place through the student conduct code. Faculty may include in syllabi their expectations and steps they will take when students do not meet those expectations. See the optional syllabi checklist for COVID-19.

Can an instructor take off the face covering while teaching?
Both faculty and students are expected to wear face coverings in classrooms. Faculty who are not able to wear a face covering should contact their department chair so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Does NDSU administration have a benchmark for what the circumstances are that would cause campus to go fully online for the fall?
NDSU is following the guidance from ND Department of Health and NDUS.

Any discussion on bringing students back to campus and going online for the first 2-3 weeks and then return to the classroom face-to-face?
NDSU will start instruction with the HyFlex model as planned. However, we will respond to new directives and guidance as they become available.

Can plexiglass be added to the podiums?
Plans are underway to add plexiglass shields to classrooms when possible.