

**Subject:** [col-sw-emp-staff-appt] COVID-19: Planning and Fall Quarter  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 at 12:36:33 PM Mountain Daylight Time  
**From:** Amanda Moore McBride  
**To:** Christine Mafana  
**Attachments:** image002.png@01D661B7.01176C30, image004.png@01D661B7.01176C30, image006.png@01D661B7.01176C30, image008.png@01D661B7.01176C30

GSSW Faculty, Staff, and Doctoral Students,

I hope that you are doing well, creating moments to enjoy summer and taking a bit of a break. It is critically important that we prioritize our health and wellness during this time.

We are all watching as the virus continues to spread; reopening plans are being reversed; and public health precautions are mandated. Our anxiety is high—for our loved ones, ourselves, and for how our work and learning will continue.

While plans are emerging for fall quarter, there are still unknowns as to how DU overall will open safely and with what precautions and processes in place. These unknowns are largely driven by the larger, variable public health conditions in which we live.

For GSSW, between the GSSW COVID-19 academic task force and the school's Executive Advisory Council, June was focused on gathering information and perspectives, and July was spent planning and testing implications of the plan. We have developed a unique and individualized fall quarter plan for GSSW that prioritizes the health and welfare of our community members. The plan also ensures continuity of work and learning, and promotes a quality experience for our students. Moreover, it has contingencies should public health conditions change and DU instate new requirements.

Even if plans move forward for DU's reopening and for some classes to be offered in Craig Hall, please be assured that we will continue to function remotely as a school during fall quarter. All meetings will remain virtual as will services for students, faculty, and staff. We are encouraging all faculty and staff to work directly with their supervisors on their preferences for remote or campus work and teaching. It is my intention that we will honor each person's request and unique circumstance.

Please join us for the opportunity to review and discuss GSSW's plan and contingencies with you. We seek your feedback and questions. These sessions are planned for mid to late August, because we believe we will know more then, as we get closer to the start of fall quarter.

Outlook invitations will be sent from the Office of the Dean for the following "coffee talks." Please feel free to attend one or both on Monday, August 10, 3pm and Tuesday, August 18, 10am. Please also tentatively hold Wednesday, September 2 from 9am to 2pm for a Community of the Whole "retreat." Plans are still emerging. Please know that there will be interactive sessions and ample breaks.

Perhaps you noticed, as I did, a shift in the collective energy last week. It is sinking in that a return to life as we knew it is long into the future, and new realities and routines are required. This epoch is a burden for the soul. I hope that you will continue to access available mental health and family care supports. Please remember to reference our [COVID-19 page](#) for information and resources.

Even in the face of this stress, I hope that you can take some solace in each other. It has been heartening to see how our departments, institutes and centers, and faculty have worked together over the last four months. Together, we continue to lead a successful and impactful school that is values-driven. Thank you for your commitment to the school, our mission, and one another.

With appreciation,  
Amanda

**Amanda Moore McBride, PhD**  
**Morris Endowed Dean and Professor**

Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver  
2148 S. High Street, Craig Hall 306, Denver, Colorado 80208  
303.871.2203 | [Amanda.McBride@du.edu](mailto:Amanda.McBride@du.edu) | [Portfolio and CV](#) | [she/her/hers](#)



You received this message because you are a member of the DU network.