

Dear colleagues and students:

A task force has been constituted a few days ago by the Vice-Chancellor with the mandate to chalk out a roadmap for resumption of regular academic activities in the University. I am sure all of you are fully conscious of the gravity of the situation facing us amidst the pandemic that seems to continue to cause understandable anxieties among everyone. All of you deserve full appreciation for the way you have been coping with the crisis on personal and professional fronts even as you lend support to others around you.

As one of the leading universities in the country, we at UoH should be concerned about the long suspension of organised teaching-learning process since March 15. Many faculty colleagues have continued to engage with students in whatever online ways that they could individually think of, but not to anyone's complete satisfaction. A number of our scientists have managed, against odds, to keep doing their research, some of it in response to the immediate health and medical demands of the country. Our social scientists and scholars in the humanities have been formulating and implementing socially relevant research and engaging in the public sphere to address the more humanistic dimensions of the crisis.

The time has come for us to work together in a concerted manner to see how the University can resume what it does best in terms of offering high-quality education for which it has rightly earned its credentials. We have managed to complete the final semester evaluation and grading in a student-friendly manner and allowed them to graduate and explore career options. However, we urgently need to come up with a concrete plan to get our ongoing students back in the classroom, physically or virtually, so that an institution with a highly qualified teaching community delivers what it is expected to deliver. If this requires contingency planning, we need to put all our heads together. There is the looming challenge of admissions for the next academic year and the need to explore feasible alternatives to our normal practices. We are all cognizant of this and other challenges, including the health and safety of all community members, the availability of appropriate ICT infrastructure, sustaining laboratory and studio work, and overcoming disrupted experimental and field research of our research scholars.

The task force in reality is all of us – our talented student body and the great minds that constitute our faculty. The officially constituted group of which I am a part fully intends to consult all stakeholders and find ways out of the current crisis as it affects the functioning of our University. Towards that end, we invite all of you to share your suggestions and ideas for resumption of academic activities in the University, including successful practices that you have already tried, so that we can come up with actionable plans without

sacrificing our core educational objectives or values of equity. Please email me at [vinodp@uohyd.ac.in](mailto:vinodp@uohyd.ac.in).

In the next couple of weeks, the members of the task force will be reaching out to heads and deans of academic units as well as to teachers' and students' bodies to ascertain their views and seek their concrete inputs. We hope to receive all of your cooperation in collectively overcoming the challenges before us.

Regards,  
Vinod Pavarala  
(for UoH Task Force)