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**From:** Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School <grad.dean@message.yale.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 3:47 PM  
**Subject:** GSAS Town Hall Summary and announcing the next

**Yale**

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

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In this message: A summary of the 5/28 GSAS Town Hall and announcing the next

June 3, 2020

Dear graduate students,

Thank you very much for attending our first GSAS Town Hall with Vice Provost Susan Gibbons and Vice Provost Michael Crair about phase 1. I know the short notice was problematic for some – I appreciate your patience with our debut and expect to be able to offer you more lead time going forward.

In our session you expressed understandable concern about the safety of resuming work in labs or restricted data workspaces. Another message will follow this one with details about resources and information that you may find helpful.

**Our next Town Hall/webinar will be on June 11 at 2 PM EDT with Stephanie Spangler** (Vice Provost for Health Affairs & Academic Integrity), **Ann Kuhlman** (Executive Director of OISS) and **Anthony Koleske** (Deputy Dean for Scientific Affairs). We will plan to answer Phase 1-related questions regarding safety, testing, international student concerns, security, and all topics related to reactivation.

To help with the flow of proceedings, we would welcome questions in advance. If you would like to submit questions before the session please use this anonymized Qualtrics link:

[https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3OTQ4GCrtsn7PDL](https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3OTQ4GCrtsn7PDL)

**To summarize [the discussion from Thursday 5/28](#):**

**Dean Cooley (LC)** introduced the session with the recent news that the Governor of Connecticut announced that all criteria for Phase 1 has been met. This means that as of June 1, critical research may resume at universities and students working on approved projects in laboratories or other places where restricted data may be held. If you can work from home, we are to continue doing so. If you have been invited to return to your workplaces, safety protocols will be in place not limited to social distancing, enhanced cleaning, masks, and other measures. Our goal is to make resuming research as safe as going to the grocery store.

**Vice Provost Michael Crair (MC)** reviewed the efforts taken to structure campus reactivation. Labs will receive authorization to begin in the next several days.

PIs are required to submit applications and safety plans for approval. They should share these plans with you.

**Vice Provost Susan Gibbons (SG)** chairs the committee specifically on humanities and social science research. She said that humanities and social sciences students working with restricted data that can only be accessed on campus have to apply to return just as students/trainees in the laboratories.

SG is working on how to carefully reopen libraries in phase 1. Scan-and-demand will be first. You will be able to request books from Sterling, Bass and off-campus storage and then pick them up in the Thain Café next to Bass. Requested books will be held for a decontamination period of 36 hours and then placed in paper bags for you to retrieve. For now, there will be no book recall.

**Important take-aways:**

There is no pressure to return to your work in the lab or with restricted data elsewhere on campus if you do not feel safe doing so. If you encounter pressure of any sort, we will help you. Start by talking with someone in your department – a DGS, adviser, or department director. If you are concerned about repercussions, you may contact [Michelle.Nearon@yale.edu](mailto:Michelle.Nearon@yale.edu) who will help you navigate what we know can be a difficult or

awkward situation.

There were many questions about testing in terms of availability, frequency and contact tracing. We have answered as many as possible as you can see in the attached Q&A transcript. Testing is now available to anyone already on campus or anyone returning to campus. However, it is important to remember that testing can only indicate whether a person is infected in the moment they are swabbed. As this can change quickly, the best defense is in the basics: handwashing, mask-wearing, and social distancing. We hope to be able to answer more testing-related questions in our next Town Hall, which will be on June 11 at 2 PM EDT.

Shuttles are back online this week. West Campus, Orange and Blue lines are functional at 25% capacity. Yale parking lots and garages are free for now.

We will have more information about teaching fellows as we advance into the summer.

[Please gather your remaining questions and submit them in advance for the next webinar session.](#) I look forward to talking with you next week.

Sincerely,

Lynn Cooley

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics

Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

This email was sent by: Yale University  
P.O. BOX 208109, New Haven, CT, 06745 US