



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Office of the Provost

Biddeford Campus

11 Hills Beach Road
Biddeford, ME 04005
(207) 602-2678 T
(207) 602-5953 F

Portland Campus

716 Stevens Ave
Portland ME 04103
(207) 797-7261 T

June 25, 2020

To: UNE Faculty

Re: Faculty Mini-Grant Program: COVID-19 Update

Dear colleagues:

The faculty mini-grant program is an important part of the research and scholarship platform at UNE, supporting the scholarly efforts of faculty and their students across our colleges and units. As you know, funding announcements for the most recent mini-grant cycle (scheduled for April 2020) were paused due to the transition to emergency research operations in response to COVID-19, and also because of the significant short-term financial challenges on the university's budget imposed by the impact of the pandemic. This was not a decision that was made lightly, and we recognize that faculty put considerable efforts into completing those proposals and that the UFA Research and Scholarship Committee worked very hard to review them.

As the normal time for the next cycle of mini-grant submissions is approaching (August), we are writing to update you on status of the program. Given the continuing challenge of preparing for the fall semester and the continued fiscal constraints due to the uncertainty regarding fall enrollment numbers, we have decided to cancel the August call for proposals. We recognize that this decision may be disappointing to the UNE research community; however, it is prudent and necessary given our current budgetary uncertainties. We will revisit this decision later in the fall once we know with better certainty what our enrollments are and what the overall status of the budget will be for this academic year. We hope to have a call for proposals later in the fall but will have to await a review of UNE's fiscal position before making any final decision.

Thank you in advance for your patience with this constantly evolving scenario and thanks to each of you for your efforts and your support of research and scholarship at UNE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JH", written in a cursive style.

Joshua Hamilton PhD
Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Karen J. Houseknecht", written in a cursive style.

Karen Houseknecht PhD
Professor & Associate Provost for Research & Scholarship