



The Graduate Community's Response to COVID-19: A Discussion with Graduate Deans

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Karen P. DePauw

*Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education
Virginia Tech*

Graham Hammill

*Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate
School
University at Buffalo*

Robin L. Garrell

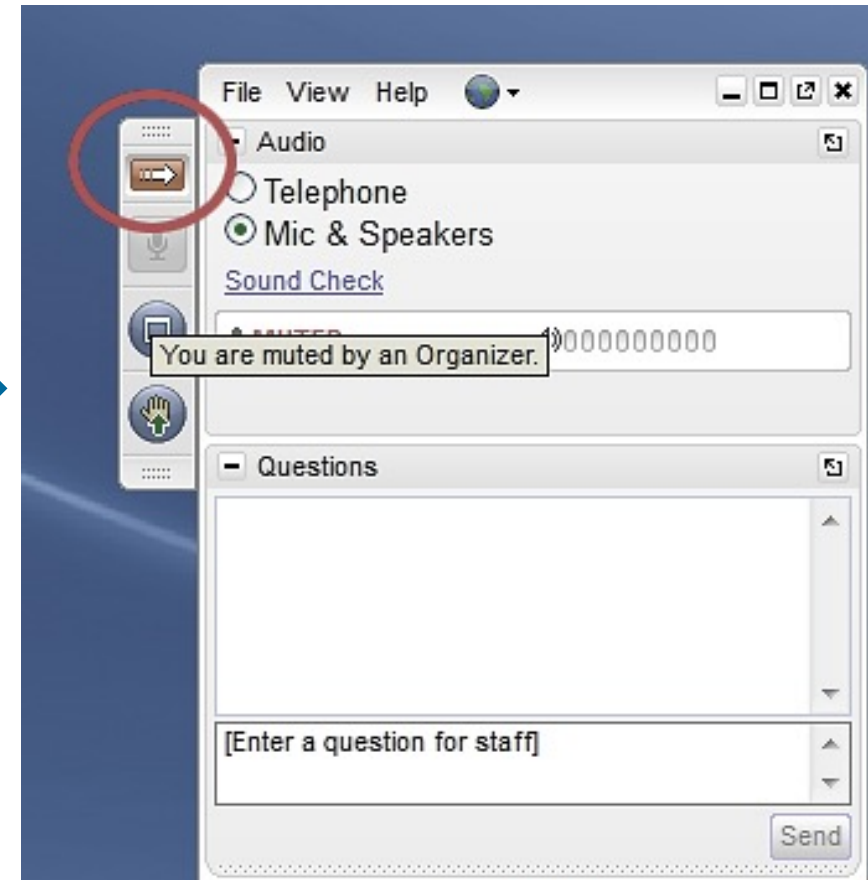
*Dean of the Graduate Division and Vice Provost for Graduate
Education
University of California at Los Angeles*

Plan for today

- **Short Poll** to understand our members' challenges.
- **Karen DePauw, Robin Garrell, and Graham Hammill** will each speak briefly on how their institutions responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Panel Discussion** of the major issues confronting leaders in graduate education as they confront this crisis.
- **Q and A.** Panelists will address questions submitted by CGS members about the issues they are facing.
- **Closing and Brief Reminder** of CGS Resources available to help.

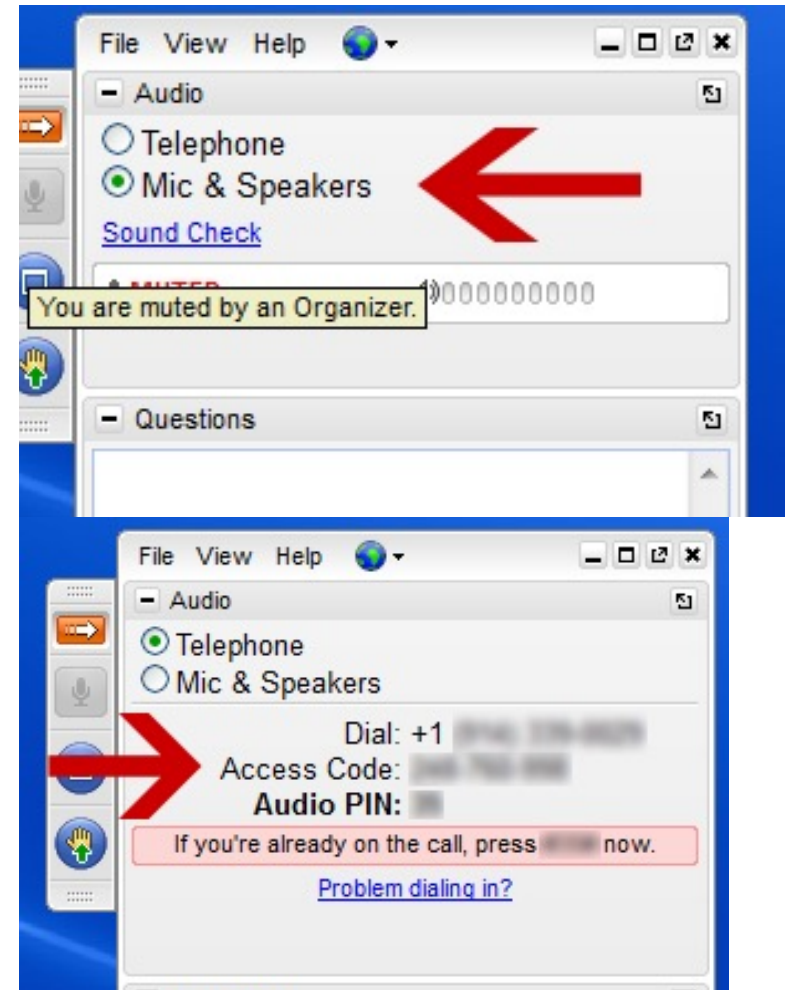
Technical Support

- Webinar **recording and slides** will be **emailed** to participants and **posted** on the CGS website
- Please **submit questions** through the GoToWebinar **control panel**
- **Technical issues?** Troubleshooting help available:
http://support.citrixonline.com/en_US/webinar



Audio Troubleshooting

- Having trouble hearing us? Try switching to a different audio connection. You can change from Telephone to Mic & Speakers or vice versa without leaving the session.
- If you experience trouble with a telephone connection, click “Problem dialing in?” for an alternate phone number to dial.



Introduction: Suzanne T. Ortega

Member Poll:

Which of the following is your institution finding most challenging in its efforts to support graduate education through COVID-19?

- a) Addressing issues of graduate student mental health and wellbeing.
- b) Identifying and preserving sources of graduate student funding in light of the financial impacts of COVID.
- c) Supporting online instruction for and by graduate students.
- d) Revising grading policies.
- e) Issues related to enrollment for the summer and/or fall session.

Discussion Question #1:

Let's begin by setting the context. What are the most important things you're doing now to help your campus and graduate students in light of changes brought about by COVID-19?

COVID-19 RESPONSE

IMMEDIATE: STUDENT WELL-BEING

- Student emergency fund
- RA lab responsibilities

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

- Policies
 - S/U grading and resignation policies
 - Public thesis and defense
- Processes
 - Remote processing
- Curriculum
 - Degree conferral dates
 - Practical training

COMMUNICATION

- Student-focused website
- Mobilization of existing communication networks
- Student and faculty surveys

Helping graduate students now

Guaranteed spring quarter appointments for TAs

and set campus expectation for continuing grad student researcher appointments

Created consolidated list of campus resources <https://grad.ucla.edu/covid-19-resources-and-support/>

All types; sent by email and posted on multiple sites; updating regularly

Provisioned resources for remote instruction (6-mo. loans)

Laptops new: providing noise-canceling headphones

Hotspots iPads

Offering real-time workshops + webinars

Using Zoom

Class engagement via remote instruction

Temporary academic policy changes

Leaves don't count P/NP grading options

Time extensions Admits can defer 2020-21 enrollment

Remote participation in oral exams



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

ZOOM with Dean Karen P. DePauw

TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST
THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND
12 PM EST

PICK A CONVENIENT DAY
ASK QUESTIONS
SHARE CONCERNS
JOIN A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SPACE

JOIN URL: [HTTPS://VIRINIATECH.ZOOM.US/J/126753356](https://viriniatech.zoom.us/j/126753356)

For more information, email us at GRADS@VT.EDU

GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRGINIA TECH

Karen DePauw Retweeted

Aimee Surprenant @sgsdean 3h
Wise words from [@kpdepauw](#). Be patient with yourself--everyone is different. You got this! [@gradstudies](#)

Karen DePauw @kpdepauw

Uncertain Times Tip #19. It takes time. As uncertainty continues, it takes time for us to adjust. Practice patience. You'll know when you're ready to get back into your graduate studies. You got this! [@VTGradCommunity](#) [@VTGSA](#) [@VTGradSchoolNCR](#) [@VT_ORDI](#) [@RoanokeGSA](#) [@VTNCRGSA](#)

For the latest news regarding the Coronavirus, please visit the [Graduate School's FAQ page](#) and the University's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Read Dean DePauw's [March 31 email](#) with messages regarding Graduate Student research and employment.

Read Dean DePauw's [March 16 email](#) to Graduate Students regarding COVID-19.

Using Zoom for Graduate Committee Based and Final Defense Exams

Ended Mar 30, 2020
1 credit

[ENROLL](#)

Teaching & Learning



Discussion Question #2:

Let's talk for a moment about what has not gone as smoothly as you might have hoped. Did anything happen as a result of your efforts that you didn't anticipate? Did you experience any false starts and how did you address these?

Discussion Question #3:

Once you get beyond the challenges of the current semester, what do you see as your biggest priorities for the summer and Fall?

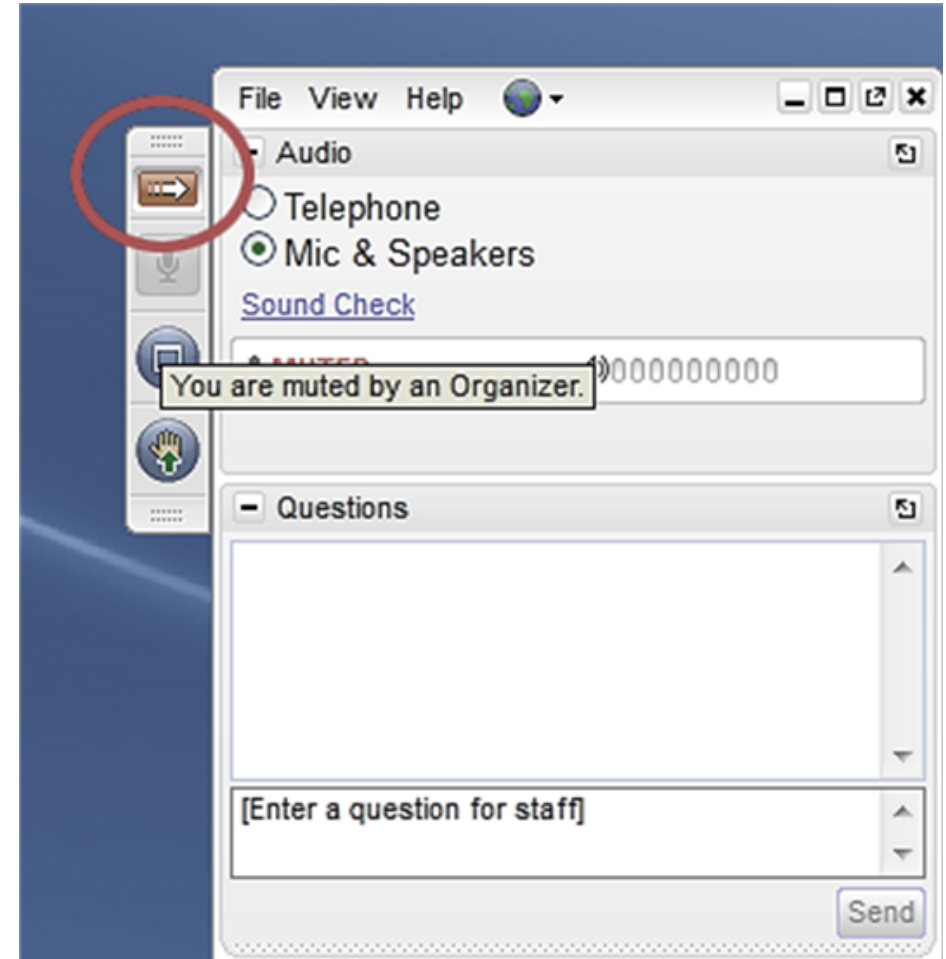
Discussion Question #4:

This moment is certainly unusual and perhaps unprecedented. However, stepping back, are there lessons you are learning from this experience that you think you will carry forward to future challenges?

Questions?

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Type them into the Questions box on the GoToWebinar control panel.



CGS President's Office Hours

- **Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing of Graduate Students through the COVID-19 Crisis** (*April 17 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST*)
- **Federal Policies Addressing COVID-19: What's Working and What's Not?** (*May 6 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST*)
- **Supporting Master's Students through COVID-19** (*May 12 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST*)
- **Supporting Doctoral Students through COVID-19** (*May 26 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST*)
- **Planning for Fall: Preventing Graduate Enrollment Melt and Onboarding New Students** (*June 9 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST*)
- **Planning for Fall: Supporting and Retaining Current Students** (*June 16 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST*)

Thank You for Participating!

- Discuss responses to the pandemic and follow the conversation on the Dean's Discussion Board at <https://cgsnet.org/deans-discussion-board>.
- We are also maintaining a COVID-19 webpage with guidance and resources related to graduate education at <https://cgsnet.org/information-cgs-members-coronavirus>. To request that a resource be added email Matthew Linton (mlinton@cgs.nche.edu).

