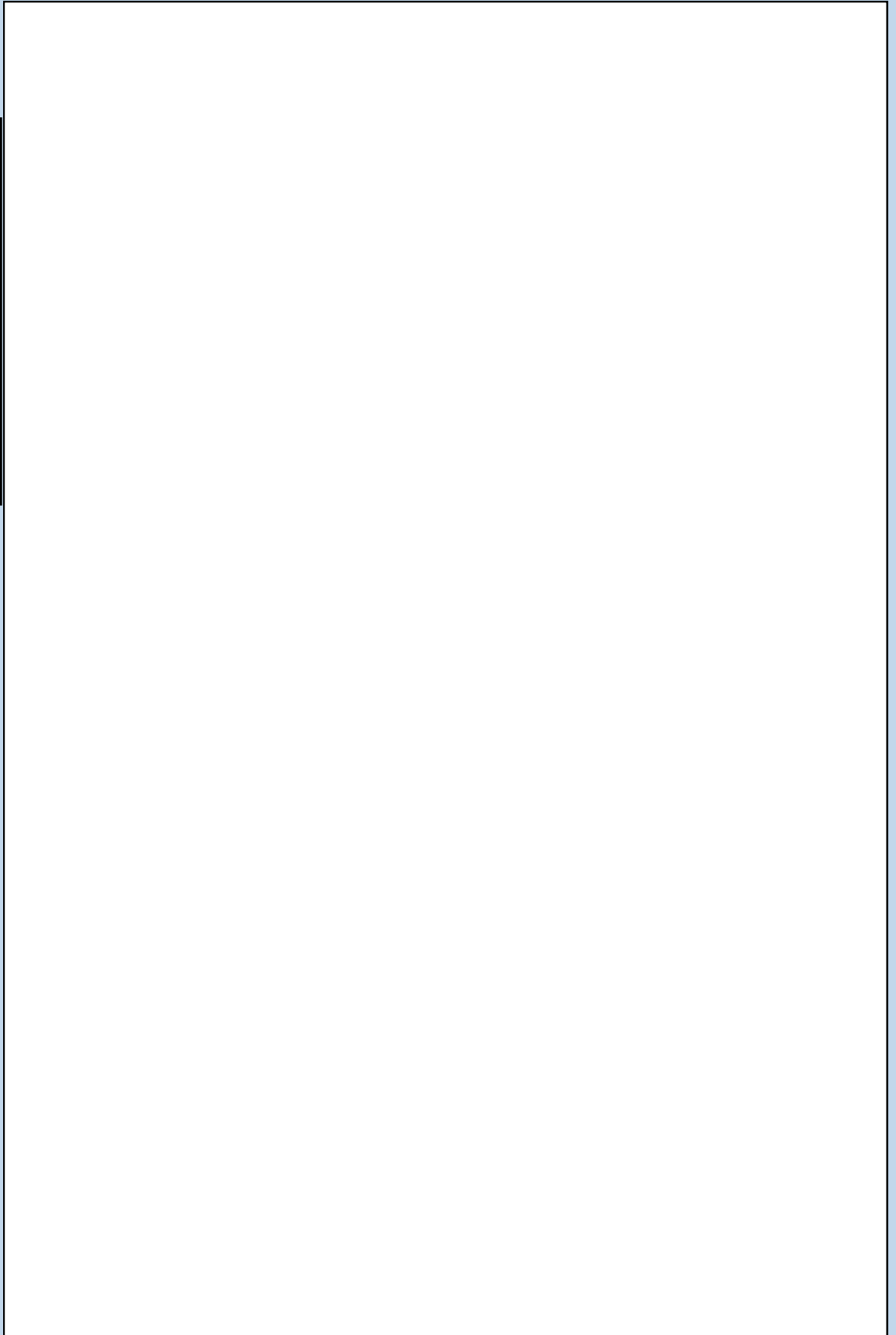


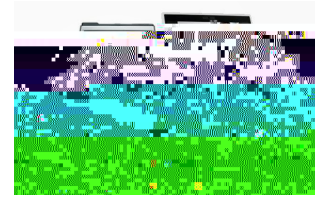
Inside this issue:

Making Online Classrooms
Accessible
Academic Support Services



Much like portions of our beautiful Dallas campus, online teaching and learning was "Under Construction" during the Spring 2020 semester! DASS appreciates the many ways faculty and departments worked together to provide a rich learning environment on very short notice for all students.

With May and June classes moved online, DASS wants to encourage course designers to be mindful of accessibility issues as courses are created. Although there was very little time to consider access issues in March, we do have to be considerate of how a person with a disability might experience a barrier in your course for the near future.



Here are some things professors can do to create access in online learning environments:

Provide recorded lectures. This allows students to review the material again.

Make outlines or PowerPoints easily available to students. This allows students who have difficulties processing visual, auditory and written material simultaneously to feel more prepared for lectures online.

Be very clear on how to extend time on any assessments within the system you choose to use.

Consider alternatives to traditional tests since timed tests with a lockdown browser may limit a student who requires assistive technology to access the digital information.

As always, establish and provide textbooks and reading lists well in advance. This allows DASS and our students to access digital formats before classes begin.

Provide ways for students to ask questions during online exams, if this is something you allowed before online classes. Contact OIT for instructions on how to have students use Zoom on their phones or tablets to ask you questions in real-time.

If Fall 2020 courses are administered online or in some hybrid format, please contact our office as well as CTE to discuss ways to minimize barriers as you design the course rather than waiting until classes start to retrofit.

Remember, DASS Link works well in our current virtual environment by allowing the instructor to log in and view DASS accommodation letters at any time. You can quickly check your roster of students and see (in list form) those with accommodations. DASS staff are still reviewing new accommodation requests so you could receive a new accommodation letter at any point in the semester, but accommodations are not retroactive.

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Looking for a few tips on designing your syllabi for major redesigns? This Inside Higher Ed article offers some helpful guidance.

<https://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/6-tips-for-redesigning-your-online-syllabus-due-to-covid-19/education>

Please include this statement in your syllabus:

Disability Accommodations

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