



Jane McBride Gates
Provost and Senior Vice President

August 28, 2020

Dear CSCU Faculty,

On August 27, 2020 you were sent a CSCU Announcement about CSCU's policy on the use of Zoom. Unfortunately, Zoom is not supported by the system. On April 8, 2020, the CSCU System Office directed all campuses administrators and staff to suspend the use of Zoom. Applications that are not hosted and managed by campus IT staff, lack the necessary security, legal controls and privacy to be successfully operated in the CSCU system. The use of Zoom for instruction violates CSCU's Acceptable Use Policy.

CSCU IT policies and procedures are set forth to meet both Board of Regents policy mandates and the statutory or regulatory requirements of the state of Connecticut and the federal government.

The negative consequences of using unsupported, insecure software can be significant and will expose employees to liability. Additionally, there are concerns from the Office of Students with Disabilities that Zoom is not ADA compliant and may prevent implementing accommodations that are required under the American Disabilities Act.

I know that this is disappointing news. Many of you using Zoom and other videoconferencing applications are overwhelmed and exhausted after spending all summer preparing for the Fall semester, following pivoting abruptly to remote instruction in response to COVID-19 in March 2020.

In consultation with President Mark Ojakian, I write to inform you that the transition period from Zoom to approved CSCU applications, WebEx and Microsoft Teams, has been extended to the end of December 2020. At the end of December 2020, all CSCU faculty are expected to be compliant with CSCU IT policies.

We encourage you to review and adopt online learning platforms approved by the system. Most recently, CSCU obtained additional software from Blackboard Collaborate to support faculty in online learning.

We thank you for your continued support and exemplary service to ensure continuity in CSCU students' education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Gates".

Jane McBride Gates, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs