

# AKADÉMOS

## Things to Consider When Quickly Transitioning to Distance Learning

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- Currently advising institutions, ed tech companies, investors – Hines Point Advisors

## Some Great Resources are Available:

- The higher education media are very effectively covering the impact of coronavirus on higher education as well as how schools can best manage the crisis
- Resources include:
  - InsideHigherEd.com
  - UPCEA
  - Chronicle of Higher Education
  - Higher Education Response Center, hosted by Entangled Solutions
  - Lumina Foundation

## Some Key Themes

- Keep the physical and mental health of your community as the first priority
- Focus on the immediate challenge – provide as much continuity as possible to get through the spring term
- For now, think in terms of distance or remote learning...not necessarily digital and online
- Recognize one size does not fit all in higher ed

# Transitioning to Distance Learning Quickly

- Approach this sequentially...
  - First, focus on the tactical execution over next 6-7 weeks required to get through the spring term
  - Second, focus on strategic planning over the May-July timeframe to prepare for scale in long-term

# Tactical Execution for Here and Now

- 6-7 weeks remaining in spring term.
- Students, faculty, staff all need continuity and stability
  - (over)communicate that you understand that
- Keep things simple:
  - Don't launch a new LMS
  - Don't try to migrate many courses onto LMS overnight
  - Don't overburden faculty and students with even more change than they're experiencing
  - Meet students and faculty where they are
  - Focus on minimum viable product (MVP) to move to distance
  - Use familiar remote learning tools like video-conferencing
  - Standardize – ensure students have consistent experiences across courses this spring
  - Encourage flexibility: consider option of moving to pass/fail

# Strategic Planning over Summer for Long-Term

- May-August 2020 is an opportunity to develop longer-term approaches for operating online at scale
- Establish a cross-functional team to map out how to move to a sustainable model should campus be closed long period and for future disaster-preparedness
- This may require having a fully-online model as an business continuity plan in future. This includes:
  - Online course design
  - Faculty development
  - Content curation
  - Partnerships for outsourced solutions
  - And more...



# Q&A with Raj Kaji and Jonathan Kaplan