



Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science
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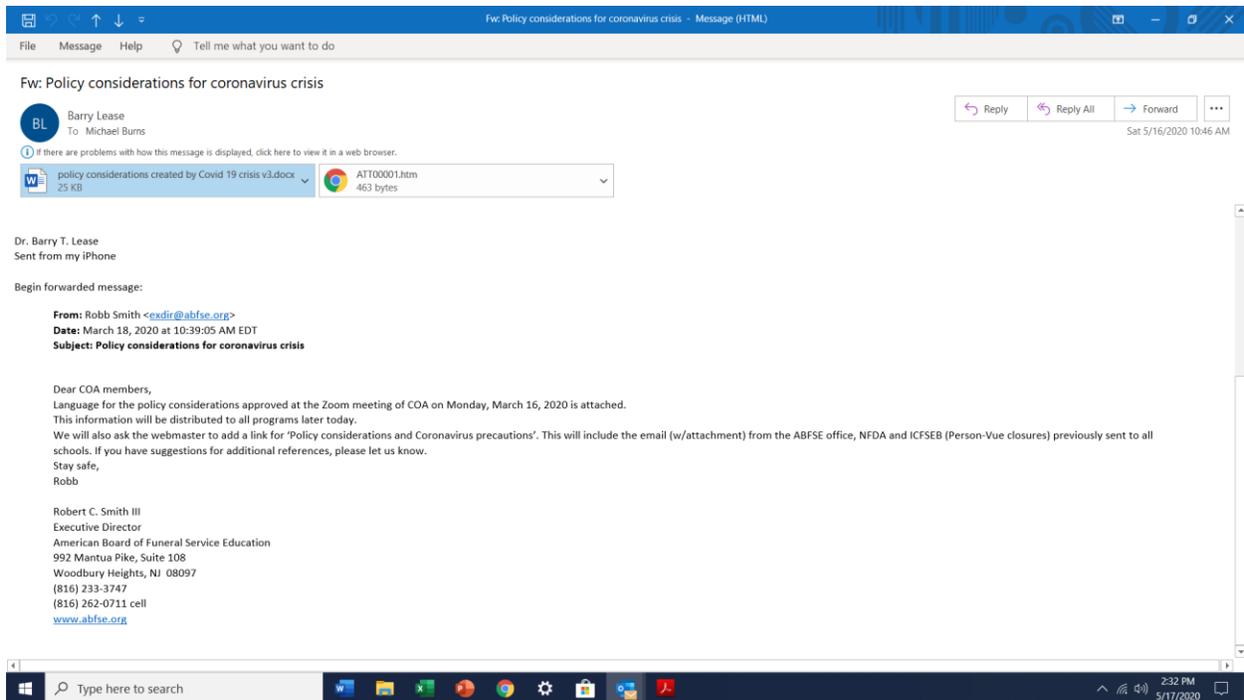
3/18/20--COVID-19 STUDENT UPDATE

CLINICAL AND PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS

Dear students:

In a policy issued 3/17/20, the Institute stated that clarification from the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) as to how students may progress in their course of study with regard to laboratory, embalming, and practicum requirements. The email attached below from ABFSE Executive Director brings some guidance for this situation as students move closer to graduation.

It should be restated that effective the lockdown, **NO CLINICAL OR PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE PERFORMED AT ANY FACILITY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF POST-SECONDARY INSTRUCTION, UNLESS YOU ARE AN EMPLOYEE OR A LICENSED TRAINEE** doing your job or gaining professional experience. If you have access to the PIMS facility, you can volunteer for professional experiences under all safety and health guidelines proposed by the CDC and in accordance with the organization, but such experiences are not required and at this point, will not be considered towards your education. The email below shows the considerations by ABFSE, and the ensuing narrative illustrates some of the potential accommodations. Note: PIMS will provide a policy as graduation gets closer for students.



Accommodations for coronavirus pandemic crisis

In an effort to provide guidance and flexibility in the unprecedented situation created by the coronavirus pandemic



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the COA offers these policy considerations:

For those students whose graduation status would be negatively impacted by the requirement to “participate in an on-campus laboratory setting in which the application of restorative art principles is practiced” (Standard 5.4.6.j.) the current on campus RA requirement is temporarily suspended until further notice. Students are still expected to engage in RA activities, however the method of delivery of instruction is flexible as long as participation is verified and documented by the program.

For those students whose graduation status would be negatively impacted by the requirement to “actively participate in at least ten embalming cases” (Standard 5.4.6.a.), the program has flexibility to determine technical competence of each graduating student. Substantive evidence of technical competence must be verified and documented by the program but will not be dependent on number of cases.

If alternative plans to complete the restorative art and and/or embalming requirements are required, the program must notify the ABFSE office and provide the following:

- *On college letterhead,*
- *Signed by the program director*
- *Designate the time period involved, i.e. dates, semester/quarter, etc.*
- *Describe how student graduation or progress has been negatively impacted by the coronavirus crisis to necessitate alternative plans.*
- *Brief description of the alternative plans to fulfill the obligations of the accreditation standards*

Evidence/documentation of student work is to be maintained by the program.

Sincerely,

Barry T. Lease

Dr. Barry T. Lease -Program Director