A photograph of three young people sitting on a patterned rug outdoors. In the center, a young woman with long brown hair is seen from behind, wearing a light blue denim jacket. To her left, a young man with long brown hair is looking towards her. To her right, another young man with glasses and a black jacket is looking towards the left. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and a bright sky.

The Pandemic University Experience

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Overview

- **The institutional context**
- **The emotional context**
- **The spiritual context**

- **UCCF's response**
- **Encouragements to sending FIEC churches**
- **Encouragements to receiving FIEC churches**

The Institutional Context

Your university experience will look and feel a little different this term. With a blended approach to teaching, there will be fewer people on campus than usual and our spaces will be reconfigured to support physical distancing, enhanced hygiene protocols and the use of technology to support Wales' Test, Trace, Protect scheme. You can support this further by downloading the NHS contact tracing app when it is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store on 24 September.

It is vital that we remain vigilant. Our communities are not simply our university campuses but the towns, cities and wider regions to which our universities belong. As students, we ask you to recognise the important role and responsibility that you have, on and off campus, to keep yourself, and the wider communities around you, safe from coronavirus. Please prioritise public health so we can ensure that the new academic year is a safe and satisfying experience for everyone.

We thank you for choosing to undertake your higher education in Wales and we wish you the very best for the coming year.

With all good wishes.

The Institutional Context



The Institutional Context



The Institutional Context

	Formal	Organic
Teaching and learning	Contact hours	Self-directed learning
Extra-curricular	Clubs and societies, part-time work	Informal socialising



Monopoly, video games, study groups: How COVID-19 is spreading at USC



Small gatherings have led to a surge in COVID-19 cases at USC lately. (Josie Norris / Los Angeles Times)

By ANDREW J. CAMPA | STAFF WRITER

AUG. 28, 2020 | 6 AM

A game of Monopoly among friends. A study group with a few classmates. Dinner while chatting in the comfort of their apartment.

These are the small group gatherings that are the source of the ongoing surge of

CORONAVIRUS AND PANDEMIC >

California is turning the corner on the coronavirus. Will it last?

It's tough to tell COVID-19 from smoke inhalation symptoms — and flu season's coming

How you can get a flu shot in Southern California (free)

Californians are testing positive for COVID-19 at the lowest rate on record

Op-Ed: A COVID-19 vaccine is one thing. Getting Americans to take it is another

Cases statewide »

785,934 confirmed

15,016 deaths

As of September 20, 10:38 p.m. Pacific

The Institutional Context

A game of Monopoly amongst friends. A study group with a few classmates. Dinner while chatting in the comfort of their own apartment.

These are the small group gatherings that are the source of the ongoing surge of COVID-19 infections among students at USC.

As the university enters its second week of classes, it's not large shoulder-to-shoulder parties that are the top worry. It's the common, day-to-day interactions among groups of 10 or fewer friends and housemates who live in thousands of privately owned apartments and houses that surround the campus.

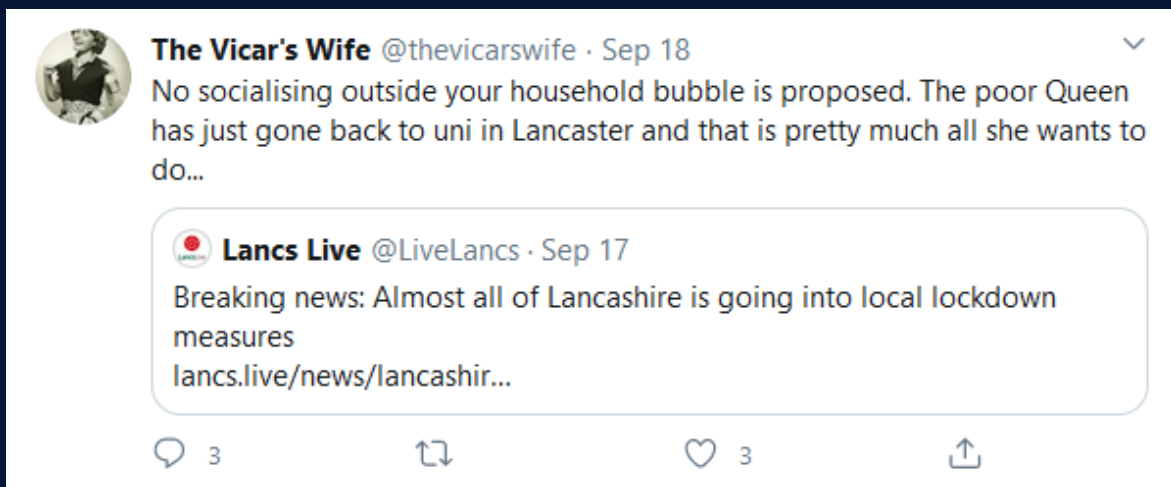
The Emotional Context



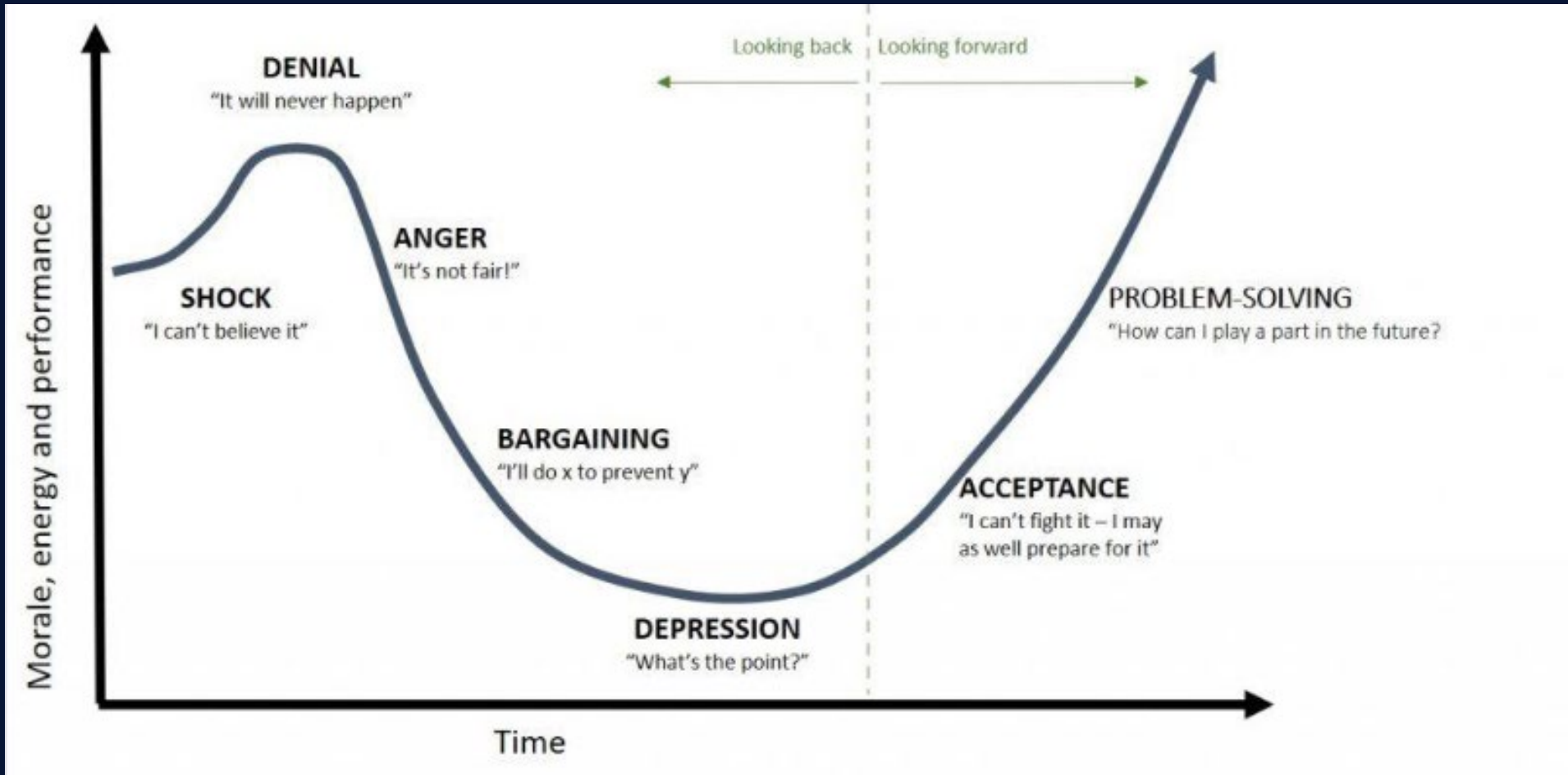
GETTING LEGLESS Boozy freshers struggle to stay on their feet as they hit the town in Leeds and Sheffield with Covid lockdown looming

University bosses are told not to send students home in the event of a coronavirus outbreak in case they spread the illness to other communities

- Boris Johnson said guidance was necessary to avoid spreading virus across UK
- He urged undergraduates to protect their families by not gathering in big groups
- Institutions will be expected to care for students if they fall ill on campus



The Emotional Context



The Emotional Context



The Emotional Context

- Over-promising by universities may exaggerate 'wobble week' blues in October / November
- International students have already borne the brunt of difficulties and are especially vulnerable ahead
- There are fears around a mental health spike, as students feel lonely, isolated and depressed

The Spiritual Context

Challenges

- CUs cannot gather in groups greater than six
- The path into local churches is difficult and places high onus on individual students – we should be particularly concerned for ‘non-resilients’
- Many students have fallen out of the habit of going to church
- Evangelistic engagement needs to adjust to look and sound somewhat different

The Spiritual Context

Opportunities

- There was already increasing spiritual openness on campus – students are looking for hope
- Everyday Christian acts of welcome, kindness and community can count more than ever
- There is little organised activity on campus – at most universities, the CU will probably be the most active group on campus.

UCCF's response

- Face-to-face contact between staff and students where possible
- High subsidised New Student Welcome Packs



offering a base level for local and for evangelism

ve approaches to student mission

Encouragements to sending churches

- Pray for your students – including for their gospel opportunities
- Model prayer and empathy for UCCF, CUs and churches in university cities
- Encourage wise engagement with church in their university city (and involvement in Impact Groups)
- Send them a New Student Welcome Pack!

Encouragements to receiving churches

- Encourage returning students into CU Impact Groups
- Prepare for a vastly-elongated welcome period
- Offer New Student Welcome Packs as welcome gifts
- Offer inter-generational relationships as possible

The Pandemic University Experience

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