

To the UConn Community:

As this extraordinarily unusual semester draws to a close, I want to share with you our current planning activities for the summer and fall.

Our academic leadership has been engaged with Student Affairs leadership in scenario planning for resuming instruction. These scenarios range from most or all courses remaining online to returning to all in-person instruction and residential life with significant safety modifications and accommodations, and other scenarios in between.

Under any scenario, to help students continue their progress toward a degree, our aim is to provide enough online options for students who are in high-risk categories, are not comfortable returning, and for international students unable to return due to travel restrictions.

Information on the weeks and months ahead:

Summer Session. We have previously announced the cancellation of face-to-face classes at all campuses for May term and Summer 1 terms (beginning June 1). We are now extending this plan to include Summer 2 terms (beginning July 13). Instruction for all summer terms will be delivered online or remotely through distance education. Clinical and field placements, along with internship experiences, may still be coordinated using traditional, face-to-face formats, subject to the policy and procedures of the University and external entities. Students who do not have alternate housing can still apply for housing through the Department of Residential Life at <https://reslife.uconn.edu/summer-housing/>

The Fall Semester. The decision regarding face-to-face classes for fall 2020 will be made with the approval of the Board of Trustees and communicated before June 30, 2020. We will stay in regular communication as we move forward. Factors contributing to that decision will include the progress on slowing COVID-19, guidance from public health experts, decisions and guidance from federal and state government, and the availability of testing, among others. Though no decision has been made, faculty should plan as though courses will be delivered online in the fall. Deans of the schools and colleges are urged to work with their faculty members to review their experiences from spring 2020 and make appropriate plans to prepare for virtual delivery in fall 2020. The [Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) (CETL) will support various programs to assist faculty in enhancing virtual delivery options. Likewise, administrative units delivering essential student services are asked to consider the same, establishing how services could be offered in an online setting in fall. **Once again, this is for planning purposes only – no decision has yet been made regarding our return in the fall semester.**

Incentivizing Health. We will continue to do all we can to make accommodations to help ensure the health of our students, faculty, and staff. Course structures, grading, class participation requirements, etc. will be designed to give students flexibility in attending class when unwell. No employee should ever come to work if they are unwell, and the university will

utilize every measure we can to incentivize faculty and staff who are sick to stay home. Detailed guidance in this area will be shared in the near future.

Budget Planning. As I mentioned in a prior letter, we are doing budget scenario planning for the fall as well. The provost and chief financial officer are forming a committee of deans and administrative unit leaders chaired by Lloyd Blanchard, the head of budget and planning, to develop options for adjusting to various fiscal impacts of the crisis. Further instructions on this will be provided to all deans and leaders of administrative units separately. This work will be followed by a consultative process with faculty and senate budget advisory committees to enable a thoughtful and strategic prioritization of our resources that will be essential to the long-term health of the university.

This has certainly been a memorable semester, one in which our academic community pivoted to move all courses online, quickly developed a course about COVID-19 which became the biggest class in UConn history, our communities moved to telecommuting or critical status in order to keep our institution up and running, and our UConn Health heroes have continued to provide world class care to a steady influx of patients.

As always, I am grateful for and amazed by your hard work. I wish everyone and their loved ones a safe and successful rest of the spring.

Tom