

From: Summers, Greg
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 03-05-21
Date: Friday, March 05, 2021 11:43:54 AM

Colleagues,

I'm writing today with three notes related to our continued and hopeful effort to transition toward more normal campus operations this summer and fall.

- Later today, the Registrar will publish our Fall 2021 schedule of classes. Comparing this to our schedule in Fall 2019 reveals a return to near-normal levels of in-person teaching. There is only a small uptick in online courses due mainly to the addition of the synchronous "virtual classroom" modality as an option. This is terrific news, and I thank the deans, department chairs, and faculty members for their work in advancing this schedule. As a reminder:
 - Faculty members teaching in person will NOT be required to provide virtual options to students, unless this results from a student receiving a formal accommodation through the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC). Note that this is unlikely to be the first option that DATC pursues as they work with students.
 - We may continue to have face-covering mandates; however, given President Thompson's expectations for in-person teaching, classes will be at full capacity and physical distancing is unlikely to be required.
- Employee vaccinations will continue as quickly as we are able to acquire vaccine. However, I must again urge your patience as this process evolves:
 - Our Student Health Service reports receiving a few angry and rude comments from employees. Given how anxious we all are and how limited our nation's supply of vaccines remains, this is understandable. But it is NOT acceptable. These folks are our colleagues, and they are doing their best to obtain and distribute vaccine on our behalf. However tired and frustrated we are, we need to redouble our efforts to treat one another with kindness and respect.
 - Please do NOT call Student Health Service. The small staff cannot modify the scheduling of vaccines nor the doses they receive, and they are already working tirelessly to attend to student health needs.
 - Remember that UWSP is just one of many locations at which educators can be vaccinated throughout the state. You can find more information at the [Portage County Health Vaccination Website](#), the [State of Wisconsin Get Vaccinated Website](#), and this [Provider Map](#).
- Finally, it's my happy duty to remind everyone with paid vacation and personal leave to take some time off if possible. During the past year, UW System allowed us to carry over

unused leave balances beyond the usual limits. However, this flexibility will expire on July 1 and we will revert to [the normal policy](#). If you're like me, most of the time off you've enjoyed during the past year has been the unpaid furlough variety. But please try, if possible, to utilize the excess leave you still have. For faculty, academic staff, and limited employees, you should do so by the end of June. For hourly/university staff, you have until the end of the calendar year.

Take care, everyone, and have a wonderful weekend.

Greg

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