

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 06-26-20
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Colleagues,

As promised, I'm writing this morning to share more information regarding our continuing adjustments to the Fall Timetable. I want to start by offering several well deserved "thank-yous":

- Dean Gretel Stock has gone above and beyond working to coordinate the Fall Timetable redesign, gathering information at the dean's level and providing analysis to aid in decision making.
- Our colleagues in Facilities worked quickly to map classrooms, including non-instructional spaces that we hope to make available for teaching.
- The department chairs, faculty members, and instructors have demonstrated impressive creativity reimagining how best to teach students despite space constraints.
- Finally, a proactive thank you to Ed Lee, Anne Eckenrod, and their colleagues in the Registrar's Office who will now assume the heavy work of formally changing the Timetable.

Here is where things stand. Among the roughly 2,100 course sections that we will offer this fall, roughly 50% of these will be taught either entirely face-to-face or in a hybrid format that includes in-person teaching. The remaining 50% will be taught online in a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous formats. Other points to note include:

- Overall, the university will be moving approximately 245 sections into new rooms to accommodate physical distancing.
- 105 sections will need an entirely new room, to be drawn from a list that includes several typically non-instructional spaces such as the DUC and DeBot Dining Center.
- The capacity in newly created instructional spaces is approximately 200 brand new slots, which should be sufficient for the need we have identified thus far.

As we knew at the outset, this is far from an ideal scenario. However, given the necessities of physical distancing, we have done well to achieve this outcome. As next steps, the Registrar's Office will work department-by-department to assign classes to new spaces where this is needed and to confirm and clearly label the modalities of each course. This work will be time-consuming and will be completed by July 25. At the same time, we will communicate with students so that they know what changes to expect and the timeline for when they should expect final course schedules.

I know there are many other questions regarding the classroom environment, and how things will need to change this fall. Among the most significant we've heard are those relating to face coverings and how this mandate will be enforced. We all know that face coverings have

bizarrely become a charged political issue, and UW-Stevens Point will not escape this dynamic. We are working to provide a standard explanation of the university's policy on face coverings to be included in each syllabus. In addition, we will provide a script of potential faculty and instructor responses should they encounter difficulties with students who forget or decline to comply. Finally, we hope to organize a virtual town hall sometime in July to discuss this and other classroom concerns related to maintaining health and safety. More details will follow soon.

In the meantime, for those of you teaching, please continue to finalize the details of your instructional plan, including modality and schedules for in-person or synchronous meetings. It is crucial for you to communicate these details to students early and directly once you have them finalized.

Thanks very much for your continued help in navigating these extraordinary circumstances. I hope that everyone has a wonderful summer weekend.

Greg

(P.S. For a digest of past updates, please click [here](#).)

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