

Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate
December 8, 2020

- 1. COVID 19-related considerations for the rest of the Fall 2020 semester:** As described in the 12/4/20 email from Stay Informed, back-to-campus testing was conducted Dec. 1 through Dec. 4 (additional dates in December still open). At the time that these announcements were drafted, campus positivity rates remain less than 2%. Although this is positive news, it should be noted that many students have not returned to campus (estimated about 40% of on-campus residents not returning). Contingencies for students who have not been tested but who need to come to campus are being communicated to them via emails from Campus Health. In order to reduce the number of students who are not able to take in-person final examinations/assessments due to not having test results, the University Health Planning Team has approved their use of a one-day visitor pass (which includes in-person screening). The visitor sticker includes name and date and is intended for limited access to campus (one-day). The Campus Operations Team is working out details of building access and communications for this. Given the increase in COVID-19 cases in our region, we anticipate more Incomplete grades than usual being awarded due to students being in quarantine or isolation. **Action requested of the FS: Discussion of any COVID 19-related impacts on end-of-semester activities is welcomed.**
- 2. Response to 11/10/20 Memorandum regarding 'Faculty who teach remotely but need to access campus facilities occasionally':** The concerns and accommodations raised in this memo were shared with the University's Health Planning Team. The University's Health Planning Team did not support the request for faculty to access campus without testing or a check-in at Visitors' Check-In Stations given the University's health and safety framework which requires testing of all campus community members every 30 days. We have tried to accommodate testing for faculty who live far from campus through numerous testing dates and times, times set aside for medically vulnerable individuals (or for those who live with vulnerable people), allowing faculty to obtain a visitor's pass instead of testing for their infrequent visits to campus, and self-swabbing. Currently, we do not have the data infrastructure to intake and manage test results from non-SU testing sites for University employees, but anticipate that this will be available in 2021 through the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients, or CRISP. CRISP is Maryland's designated statewide health information exchange but because we do not have a system to provide employee healthcare, we are not currently part of CRISP. Finally, and unrelated to any feedback from the University's Health Planning Team, excusing some faculty from getting tested, or at a minimum, getting a Visitor's Pass sends a confusing message to students regarding their responsibilities. Some students were not allowed to attend class because they had not gotten tested within 30-40 days. Not requiring University employees to follow the same protocols as students sends a confusing message at best. **Action requested of the FS: Any further discussion is welcome.**

3. **COVID 19-related considerations for Winter Term, 2021** are under development with the expectation that a back-to-campus testing regime will be conducted the week of January 4th much as it was last week. **Action requested of the FS: None, informational.**
4. **Campus Brand Project** is well underway with the research and discovery phase largely completed. A Branding Exercise (now being conducted) uses insights from the discovery phase to 'develop the foundation for a unified brand platform that will articulate SU's authentic brand in the marketplace; further define what makes the institution truly special; and provide the narrative that tells the world about SU's passion, purpose and commitment.' Information about the project, timeline and steering committee is available at the [project website](#). The Steering Committee includes representatives of shared governance, Admissions, Marketing & Communications, Publications, Strategic Planning, IT, and the Budget Office. **Action requested of the FS: None, informational.**
5. **2020 Commencement:** Information provided in 12/7/20 First Monday Update. **Action requested of the FS: None, informational.**
6. **Giving thanks, again!** Simply put, it's been a heck of a year, but I couldn't ask for a more committed faculty. Again, my thanks to all of you for your many contributions as faculty members and your leadership as Faculty Senators.