

June 15, 2020

Good morning,

I want to thank all of you for your efforts and resolve during these past months of the COVID-19 pandemic in supporting our students and one another. This is indeed a challenge unlike any we have ever faced, and we are employing solutions that have not been considered before.

While circumstances will continue to evolve, we need to start moving forward with our plans for fall 2020.

Please take a few minutes to watch the video below for an introduction to some key decisions in our plans for the fall semester.



(Click on image or click [here](#).)

Key decisions we are using to build our fall 2020 plan:

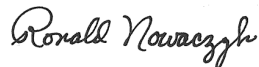
- The semester will begin Monday, Aug. 17, two weeks earlier than planned, and will end two days before Thanksgiving; students will not return to campus until the spring semester. Classes will be held on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7. Exempt and non-exempt staff will observe the Labor Day holiday; some may be scheduled to work that day and will be paid accordingly or granted the holiday on a different day, per the unit MOU. A [revised academic calendar](#) has been posted on the website.
- A number of changes will be made to classes with the intent of reducing the risk of spreading the virus while still providing an enriching educational experience. Classes will be offered through a mix of in-person, online and blended formats. The number of students in each class will be adjusted, and classrooms will be reconfigured to provide distancing and other safeguards. Details are being worked out through Academic Affairs and Facilities and will be shared in the coming weeks.
- Cleaning and sanitizing of all buildings and the availability of hand sanitizers will be increased. Face coverings will be expected to be worn when other people are present.
- Pending a vote from the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, it is expected that tuition, fees and meal plan prices will remain at the 2019-2020 levels. Room rates have been adjusted in the majority of residence halls to help students who live on

campus. CARES Act funding will additionally help alleviate some of that cost for eligible students.

The Moving Forward: Fall 2020 plan will be updated throughout the summer. Updates and related information can be found at [www.frostburg.edu/Fall2020](http://www.frostburg.edu/Fall2020). We will provide mid-week email updates through the summer.

I recognize that these decisions will not create an ideal situation. Far from it. The coronavirus and its related effects have forced many difficult changes in our lives, and some people are feeling the impact much more significantly than others. Frostburg State University remains an institution of higher education, and we are committed to moving forward with that mission. I can assure you that we will provide a caring and supportive environment as we help prepare our students for their future.

On **Wednesday, June 17, at 10:30 a.m.**, I will hold a virtual town hall on Teams to address some questions you may have. This is open to faculty and staff. (There will be a separate town hall that afternoon for students and their families, as well as other interested people.) Please send your questions to [president@frostburg.edu](mailto:president@frostburg.edu) before **noon on Tuesday, June 16**. Access the session [here](#). On Wednesday morning, I will send an email outlining the questions I and members of my cabinet will address, but there will also be an opportunity during the town hall to submit questions to moderators.



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