

July 22, 2020

Good afternoon,

Here is a weekly update on preparations for the fall semester.

Virtual Coffee for Faculty and Staff: Thanks to everyone who participated in last week's Virtual Coffee with the President (and Interim Provost Mathias and Student Affairs VP Travis). We received good questions, and we hope you found it useful. If you could not attend live, a recording is posted at [this link](#).

Athletics: The Mountain East Conference announced yesterday that it would delay the start of practices until September and delay any fall competition until at least Oct. 1. Some competitions may be played in the spring semester. The MEC release can be found at [this link](#). FSU is revising its Return to Play plan as well, and we hope to be able to share it in the coming days.

Social Compact: Last week I shared a [link](#) to the Social Compact, guidelines that we are asking every member of the FSU community to follow to help us protect each other. What does following the Social Compact look like? Here are some examples:

- Recognizing that you may be standing too close to someone and taking a couple of steps back.
- Wearing a face mask when you are in the presence of others. This is for the sake of protecting others. You may feel strong and healthy, but the person you're with, who looks just fine, may be caring for a child or parent with cancer. Play it safe and mask up.
- Avoiding crowds, especially indoors. If you arrive someplace and it seems apparent that social distancing (keeping 6 feet apart) will be impossible, choose not to visit.

Food: Chartwells, our food service partner, has adjusted their serving, seating, and scheduling protocols in their planning for the fall. Open, self-service food, such as buffet lines and soup stations, have been eliminated. Pre-packaged grab-and-go options are being expanded. And eating and food service spaces are being adjusted to reduce the number of people in any one space at a time. Read more about their plans at [this link](#).

I encourage everyone to keep these principles in mind on campus this fall with your own food. Certain practices that we have enjoyed as we gathered in the past – birthday cakes, pot lucks, sharing party leftovers – will need to stop until we are past this crisis. There is too much danger of spreading the virus with communal food.

Check-in Web App: All employees are expected to check in every work day using the [FSU Self-Monitoring COVID-19 Check-in](#) web application at [this link](#). (You can also find this link on the [Faculty/Staff](#) page on the website.) Please check in whether you are teleworking or not, or if you are using leave time. (This is a change from when the app was first announced.) Facilities employees who check in at Stangle will continue to do so.

Campus Signage and Masks: A team is working on developing signs and determining their placement for every building on campus, developed with the from designated representatives of each building. There is no need for departments to purchase their own signs, floor tape or stickers. These will all be in place before the semester begins.

A reminder that everyone is required to wear a mask indoors when in the presence with others. All students, faculty and staff will receive one reusable fabric mask with the beginning of the fall semester.

Students With Special Concerns: I again remind students who have specific concerns regarding the fall semester to email us at fall2020@frostburg.edu. You will be assigned a contact person who will ensure your questions are being addressed by the right department. And continue to check the www.frostburg.edu/fall2020 website. It is being updated regularly.

And a note not related to the Fall 2020 preparations:

Brownsville/Park Avenue Monument: There was some excitement on campus Friday as a boulder was lifted into place in the Upper Quad, a key element of the Brownsville/Park Avenue Monument being constructed there. This project, which honors the African American community that was displaced between the 1920s and 1960s as Frostburg State grew, has been several years in the making. Watch for more as the project, funded to a significant amount by grants and donations, is completed and we are able to schedule a dedication this fall.

Please stay safe and well,

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