June 4, 2020

Dear Falcons,

UW-River Falls leadership and campus stakeholders have been intensely working in consultation with local public health officials to develop plans that will allow for educational and operational activities to resume on campus while mitigating risks associated with COVID-19. As communicated on May 14, UW-River Falls intends to return to in-person classes this fall, to the greatest extent possible. Following is a first set of updates regarding our plans.

Summer operations

While all summer classes remain in alternative delivery formats, offices will gradually resume on-campus activity over the coming weeks. Supervisors and employees have received detailed guidelines for mitigation steps to take, including physical distancing, hygiene protocols and use of personal protective equipment. Plans to return to campus must first be approved by Risk Management, and all employees reporting for work on campus will be expected to perform daily self-health checks. Eligible employees can continue telecommuting. The university has suspended all on-campus events, camps or clinics through August 1. **Some of our first summer on-campus activity will include faculty and advisers facilitating remote student registration. The Admissions Office also hopes to resume some in-person campus visits for prospective students in the coming weeks.**

Aug. 8 Commencement Ceremony

With the best interest of our campus and community in mind, we determined that an in-person ceremony cannot be held August 8. Considering recommendations regarding physical distancing, mass gatherings and travel, the risks associated with a large event are still too high. UWRF is exploring several alternative options to honor and celebrate our spring graduates. Graduates will be contacted once plans are finalized.

Fall planning

We know that fall semester will look and feel different, but we remain committed to being a student-centered campus. Our Fall 2020 Decisions Task Force is working to identify the most appropriate solutions. Here is what is known at this time:

- **Academic delivery:** UW-River Falls has a strong history of effective engagement of students in our academic programs and will continue this commitment in fall 2020. Classes will be delivered via a mix of in-person, alternative or online delivery, and blended modes. The method of instruction for each class will be determined based on instructor input on course content to ensure meaningful student experiences as well as factors of health risks and space availability. **We will continuously review and update course delivery format details as more information becomes available. Students already registered for fall classes will be contacted by the Registrar’s Office if the delivery formats for their classes are subject to change. This may result in additional fees for certain courses.**

- **Facilities and Risk Management:** UW-River Falls is implementing several mitigation steps, including classroom occupancy and physical spacing changes; increased cleaning, sanitation and
hygiene protocols; and regular, visible communication to employees and students regarding best practices and expectations.

- **Academic calendar:** UW-River Falls is currently planning for our traditional academic semester schedule, running September through December.
- **Residence Life and Dining:** UW-River Falls is planning for residence hall occupancy and operation of the Riverside Commons dining facility. Students can expect changes related to occupancy limits, physical distancing and increased sanitation and hygiene in those areas.
- **Public Health considerations:** UW-River Falls is following CDC and Pierce County Public Health recommendations, including use of face coverings when appropriate for all employees and students. We are also working with local and state experts to determine options for testing and contact tracing, as well as appropriate plans for isolation and quarantine should a COVID-19 outbreak occur on campus.

Thank you for your patience and support as we work through these complicated decisions and strive to provide our students with the best education and experiences possible, even considering current conditions.

These and future updates will also be made available on the [www.uwrf.edu/covid-19](http://www.uwrf.edu/covid-19) webpage. Please email covid-19@uwrf.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

**Dean Van Galen**  
*Chancellor*

**David Travis**  
*Provost*