Dear UWRF Students,

I’m writing with an update on our plans for fall. First, I want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to provide you with a safe and enjoyable college experience in the fall as close to normal as possible given the COVID-19 pandemic situation. In order to do this, however, we are making modifications to classes, residence halls, and other spaces on campus to reduce the potential spread of the virus. We are developing protocols on requirements for the wearing of face coverings, testing, and tracing to minimize the likelihood of COVID-19 occurring and spreading on campus but also to be properly prepared to respond should that occur. You will be hearing more about these plans as we get closer to the beginning of the semester.

**Course Delivery**
Other than those that are already 100% online, the majority of classes will be taught in hybrid mode. This is necessary due to the restrictions on how many students we can have in a given classroom at one time. Hybrid courses are taught through a combination of face-to-face and virtual learning. To allow proper spacing, classroom maximum occupancy limits are being reduced and classes will be divided into groups of 50% or fewer. Additional work will be assigned virtually to ensure that the scope of material is covered. This approach will allow students to be given increased flexibility for class attendance with optional work to be done virtually as they and/or the instructor feel necessary. This mode also provides the campus with maximum flexibility given the uncertainties of COVID-19 and how it will impact our ability to gather in the fall.

**Classroom accommodations**
Some classes may be moved to larger spaces to allow increased student capacity and lesser need for virtual learning. Others may end up having additional times for evenings or weekends to allow more opportunities for face-to-face class time with instructors. Please regularly check your class schedule in eSIS during August to make sure you’re aware of any location and/or time changes.

**Residence Halls**
Residence halls will be open, and residents have received communication from the Residence Life Department regarding plans for fall semester with more details to come prior to opening. Utilizing guidance from the CDC and county public health professionals, several modifications are being made to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19. Occupancy will be modified to decrease density and allow more single rooms, prioritizing those who have a medically related need. Additionally, common areas will have occupancy limits. Hall programs, student leadership opportunities, and student support provided by staff will take place utilizing
alternate delivery methods. Move-in dates will be extended, and procedures will be adjusted to increase social distancing. Finally, policies and expectations of students and hall staff will have an increased focus on COVID-related safety, including a no-guest policy.

Whether in the classroom, residence halls, or through virtual learning, we are committed to continuing to provide the same high-quality engagement that has served so many generations of University of Wisconsin-River Falls students.

Questions?
If you have additional questions please consider joining us for our virtual town hall for students and families on July 15. This event will be split into two sessions, one for returning students (5:30-6:45 p.m.) and one for new and incoming students (7-8:15 p.m.). During the sessions, students and their families can speak directly to UWRF leadership about fall semester, including the university’s safe return to campus plans, options developed for alternate modes of delivery, as well as health and safety protocols to ensure the campus community stays safe amidst the ongoing pandemic. Students are encouraged to submit questions in advance to covid19@uwrf.edu. Questions may also be submitted during the live event. Please see the recent email sent by Interim Chancellor Connie Foster for more details on this important event.

Regards,

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