Clarifications/Updates on Fall and Spring Semester

All Current UWRF Employees <ALL-EMPLOYEES@LISTS.UWRF.EDU>
on behalf of
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To: ALL-EMPLOYEES@LISTS.UWRF.EDU <ALL-EMPLOYEES@LISTS.UWRF.EDU>

Dear UWRF Students and Campus Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose challenges to our operations as an institution of higher education. We strive to provide rich learning and educational experiences for our students, yet we understand that the health and safety of all is our utmost priority. As such, I have some clarifications and updates to share:

**Current fall semester:**

**Pass/Fail Option**
Similar to last spring, the UWRF Faculty Senate passed a motion allowing students the option of selecting "pass/fail" rather than a letter grade. Students are required to receive approval from both their instructor and their adviser. This process is initiated by completing the Pass/Fail form. Additional details regarding the pass/fail grading option can be found here.

**Thanksgiving Break**
While some campuses had planned to end their in-person activities early, reverting to completely online delivery after Thanksgiving, UW-River Falls will **not** be doing this institution-wide. Instructors have the flexibility to design their course delivery as they feel is safest and most appropriate for their content. There may be some instructors with face-to-face classes who choose to change their mode of delivery after Thanksgiving, and there may be students who decide to not return and instead take advantage of online options that some instructors may have made available. Students should inquire with their instructors regarding any changes they might foresee in their course delivery.

**Upcoming spring semester:**

Although final determinations have not been made, we anticipate that spring will look very much like fall in terms of offering a mix of in-person, hybrid and completely online course options. However, there have been some important new decisions regarding spring:

**Spring Break**
The UWRF Faculty Senate has voted to cancel the 2021 Spring Break, March 22-28, 2021, and end spring semester one week early. This vote follows similar action taken by other UW System campuses, as a precautionary measure to help prevent increased spread of COVID-19. The last day of classes for spring semester will be April 30, 2021. Registration for spring semester is planned to begin November 6.

**Study Abroad**
Considering the very unlikely possibility that study abroad experiences will be possible due to the COVID-19 situation, we have made the decision to cancel all J-Term and spring semester study abroad courses. This decision does not formally include any individual student exchange programs. Global education and engagement remain core to the UW-River Falls mission and we
hope that after spring, we will once again be able to pursue these activities with renewed energy and commitment.

If you have questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

David Travis

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