



May 29, 2020

Dear Members of the University Community,

I wanted to update you on our fall semester planning. As I mentioned last week, we have convened a broadly representative group to identify and recommend to the President and Cabinet approaches for the Fall 2020 semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fall Planning Group and its subgroups are meeting and analyzing different scenarios, informed by the status of the pandemic and government guidance and directives. Our efforts are benefiting from collaboration with an ad hoc faculty group developed between the Faculty Affairs Council (the faculty union) and the Faculty Senate.

**To be clear, at this time we are still planning on delivering on-campus classes in the fall.**

Nevertheless, it is only reasonable and prudent to consider other scenarios that might be needed to best assure the safety and health of our campus community. As noted last week, these include:

- Open with social distancing and precautions for the Fall semester
- Online for part of the semester or other alternative calendar models for the Fall semester
- Online for the entire Fall semester

**These are only options being discussed. We have made no decisions other than to have classes on campus this fall if at all possible.**

**We will announce our full plans for the Fall semester opening no later than June 30 to allow members of the community time to prepare.**

As I announced last week, we invite your input in this discussion and will be working through our shared governance system to gather feedback. The Faculty, Staff, and Student senates will work with you to gather this information. Should you have any immediate ideas or suggestions, I encourage you to contact your appropriate representative:

- Faculty can contact either Kate Stumpo ([katherine.stumpo@scranton.edu](mailto:katherine.stumpo@scranton.edu)) or Stacey Muir ([stacey.muir@scranton.edu](mailto:stacey.muir@scranton.edu)) or any representative on the faculty ad hoc group
- Staff can contact Amy Driscoll-McNulty ([amy.driscollmcnulty@scranton.edu](mailto:amy.driscollmcnulty@scranton.edu))
- Students can contact Jeffrey Colucci ([jeffrey.colucci@scranton.edu](mailto:jeffrey.colucci@scranton.edu))

It is predicted that Lackawanna County will move to Yellow Status on June 5. The President and Cabinet will share information next week about how this change in status will impact campus access and operations. This will include guidance regarding laboratories, offices and other campus space.

My thanks to all those involved in our planning efforts for their dedicated work.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.  
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs