



May 21, 2020

Dear University of Scranton campus community:

As University President Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., mentioned in his message to staff and faculty, we have convened a broadly representative group to identify and recommend different scenarios for the Fall 2020 semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As this group explores options, I want to be clear that our hope and plan is to return to campus for the Fall semester. It is necessary, however, that we explore all of our options.

The Fall Planning Group has two primary purposes:

- To consider plans for on-campus instruction for the Fall 2020 semester and also contingency plans that will ensure health and safety for the campus community while preserving academic learning and the student experience.
- To provide recommendations to Fr. Pilarz and the President's Cabinet for important decisions about the Fall 2020 semester.

The following are members of this group:

Sunil Ahuja	Rob Farrell
Sam Beldona	Julie Ferguson
Don Bergmann	Eugeniu Grigorescu
Susan Bowen	Jean Lenville
Vicki Castellano	Peggy Manion
Huey Shi Chew	Stacey Muir
Jeffrey Colucci	Lauren Rivera
Harry Dammer	Ed Steinmetz
Bobby Davis	Kate Stumpo
Amy Driscoll McNulte	Patti Tetrault
Julie Schumacher-Cohen	Gerry Zaboski

Initially, we broke into four subgroups to consider in-depth plans for four broad scenarios. Because of overlap among some groups we have consolidated our work around three scenarios:

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

As the subgroups develop working documents, they are addressing the following questions:

- What information would we need to know in order to recommend this option?
What data or governmental order would be in place that would necessitate the University choosing this option?
- What are the major questions that will need to be considered for this option?
- What are possible options that we might consider?
- What are specific steps that will be recommended if we choose this option?

The Fall Planning Group is benefiting from the work of an ad hoc faculty group developed in a collaboration between the Faculty Affairs Council (the faculty union) and the Faculty Senate.

Overall, the University is closely monitoring the spread of the virus and remains attentive to plans and guidance under development by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As Father Pilarz noted, we will not rush to a decision but will instead listen to the advice and ideas of the Fall Planning Group and faculty as we consider the best course of action for Scranton.

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) or Stacey Muir (stacey.muir@scranton.edu) or any representative on the faculty ad hoc group
- Staff can contact Amy Driscoll-McNulty (amy.driscollmcnulty@scranton.edu)
- Students can contact Jeffrey Collucci (jeffrey.collucci@scranton.edu)

We ask for your patience as we practice the discernment that Saint Ignatius encouraged. We understand that everyone is anxious to know what will happen on campus in August so that they can prepare. We will update you regularly on our progress and on the timeline we establish for our decision-making. My next update will be in one week on Thursday, May 28th. We want to assure you that we are keeping in mind the need to notify everyone of the plans as soon as possible so that you can prepare for the Fall.

As we come to the end of the Spring semester, we can all be proud of how united we are as a community, grounded in our love for the University and demonstrating the grit to continue in the great tradition of The University of Scranton. As we plan for the Fall, let's continue this spirit. We can only get through this together.

Sincerely,

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

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