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Educational Leadership Council

March 22, 2021

Via Zoom, 10:30am-12:00noon

Attendance: Joanna Abdallah, Paul Benson, Connie Bowman, James Brill, Ali Carr-Chellman, Trevor Collier, Mary Ellen Dillon, Lee Dixon, Sam Dorf, Deo Eustace, Sean Falkowski, Sharon Gratto, Andrew Horner, Mark Jacobs, Joseph Kozar, SM, Carissa Krane, Leslie Picca, Jason Pierce, Fran Rice, Eddy Rojas, Eric F. Spina, Andy Strauss, Tereza Szeghi, Kathy Webb, Tom Weckesser

Excused: Andrea Seielstad

Fran Rice opened the meeting with a reflection.

1. Path Forward updates: Vaccination; May Commencements; Fall classroom planning

Vaccinations

UD is working to provide vaccines with a focus on students, undergraduate and graduate. Communications will go out once information is known, often with a very short turnaround time. The vaccine cannot be required at this time due to its emergency approval status. However, ELC members are able to promote, encourage, and defeat ill-founded rumors where possible. . Advance common good at UD would prefer vaccine by fall but need to heed boundaries that exist

May Commencement

Plans are not yet finalized. The goal is to make an initial announcement by March 26 with specific details to follow. Adherence to public health and safety protocols is essential.

Fall classroom planning

As previously announce for the fall composite, the plans at this time are to allow full capacity in classrooms. However, there will still likely be mask requirements and the potential for some modifications. Monitoring information week by week, but based on now, the University has a modest level of confidence that we can be back to something that looks more like normal expectations for fall 2021 classes. Campus events with public audiences are still a challenge.

Travel for the current academic year continues to be discouraged.

2. St. Patrick's Day and academic calendar

Discussion focused on the weekend's student celebrations and ongoing strategies to ensure campus safety for students, faculty, and staff. Plans include continuing monitoring, increasing surveillance testing, and working with the medical panel.

3. Future enrollment strategy: Prelude to April ELC discussion

Joanna Abdallah, Paul H. Benson, Connie Bowman, James Brill, Ali Carr-Chellman, Trevor Collier, Mary Ellen Dillon, Lee Dixon, Sam Dorf, Deo Eustace, Sean Falkowski, Sharon Gratto, Andrew Horner, Mark Jacobs, Joseph Kozar, SM, Carissa Krane, , Leslie Picca, Jason Pierce, Fran Rice, Eddy Rojas, Andrea Seielstad, Eric F. Spina, Andy Strauss, Tereza Szeghi, Kathy Webb, Tom Weckesser

In advance of the April ELC meeting, a preliminary discussion was held to provide background for discussion next month on how to think about undergraduate and graduate enrollment beyond fall 2022. Jason Reinoehl, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management, will attend the April ELC meeting for this discussion of the changing higher education market mixed with declining demographic number nationwide.

4. Update on a non-academic facilities project
Vice President Andy Horner provided an update on current non-academic facilities projects that will have a positive impact on UD's campus footprint.
5. Other
In closing, Leslie Picca, Academic Senate President, expressed her gratitude on behalf of ECAS for the trust given to ELC members with the confidential topics discussed during this meeting.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:54am.

Joanna Abdallah, Paul H. Benson, Connie Bowman, James Brill, Ali Carr-Chellman, Trevor Collier, Mary Ellen Dillon, Lee Dixon, Sam Dorf, Deo Eustace, Sean Falkowski, Sharon Gratto, Andrew Horner, Mark Jacobs, Joseph Kozar, SM, Carissa Krane, , Leslie Picca, Jason Pierce, Fran Rice, Eddy Rojas, Andrea Seielstad, Eric F. Spina, Andy Strauss, Tereza Szeghi, Kathy Webb, Tom Weckesser