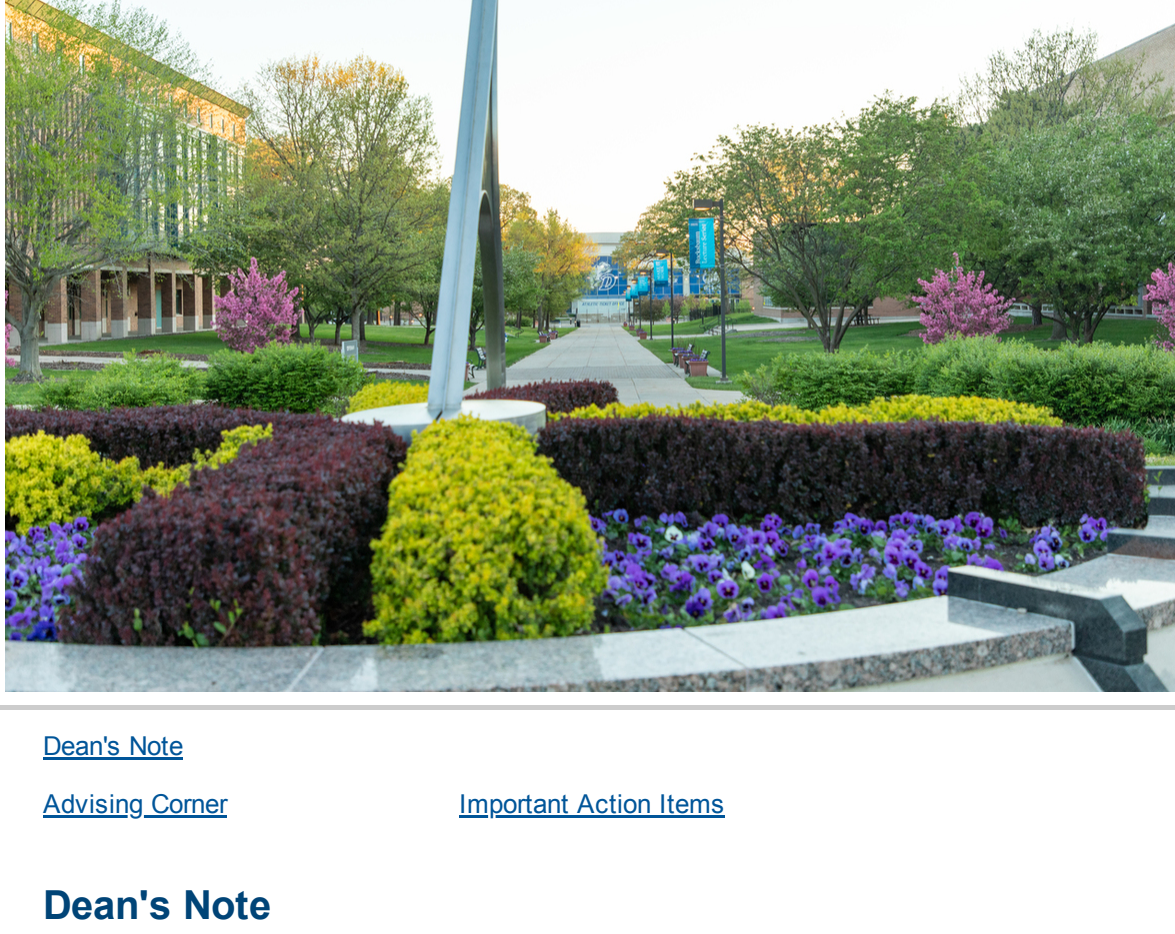


A&S Newsletter

March 22, 2021



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Dean's Note

Dear all,

We have reached the midpoint of the semester, with midterm grades due this Wednesday. Thank you all for submitting your grades on time, as they are an important check for students and advisors. The president's message last Monday announcing that we will return to mostly in-person class delivery this fall has created a flurry of actions (and reactions), but let's not be distracted from the good news: an end to the pandemic (not to COVID) and a return to more normal campus operations is in sight. I'd like to use this newsletter to update you all, respond to questions I have received and summarize where we are at with **fall planning**

- All classes will be changed to **in-person** classes, with few exceptions (see below)
- The **Registrar** will handle the bulk changes in modality of classes and will **reassign classrooms** keeping pre-pandemic room needs in mind. The reassignment will take some time. Faculty have until August 2nd to request room changes through their schedule builders.
- **Classroom capacities** will be revised with new CDC guidelines in mind (likely 3 ft distancing). That means that classes with up to 50 students can be accommodated to meet with all students at the same time (there might be some crunch times where not enough rooms are available, the registrar is working on that).
- Classes with **more than 50 students** might not all be accommodated with large enough rooms to fit all students. We have identified 10 large classes (several sections) in the college affected by this, and I have been working with the appropriate department chairs on how we move ahead with those. If no room can be found, the classes will either remain online or be taught in a blended model.
- Changing classes to in-person modality will be the default, unless an **exception** has been approved for medical reasons, because the class is larger than 50 students, the class was online before the pandemic, or other exceptions supported by the chair and **approved by the dean**
- Faculty requests to teach online because of medical reasons need to be **submitted to HR**. Please use the ADA accommodation [form](#) to submit your request. Let your chair and dean know that you have a request pending with HR. Any requests should be submitted asap (and before 3/26. Deb Wiley handles these accommodation requests.
- No changes to **J-Term**: as some of the classes were online pre-pandemic, those classes can remain online
- No changes to **summer**: as we had a mix of online and f2f classes before, there is no need to change the modality
- **Students** who need to attend classes remotely in the fall for medical reasons must request accommodations through the Student Disability Services office
- **Will students be required to be vaccinated?** We can't require vaccination with a vaccine that has been approved for "emergency use authorization." We can only require vaccines that have regular FDA approval. All of the COVID vaccines are emergency use authorizations only, so we can't require it. We will certainly facilitate vaccinations on campus as much as we can.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Other items of importance; our A&S Student Honors Convocation is scheduled for April 29th. It's going to be a virtual ceremony. Save the date! Kayla will reach out to collect the names of your department's awardees. We will hold an all-faculty meeting on Friday, April 30 from 2-4pm to recognize accomplishments of the year and reflect on changes going forward. Join me for office hours this Thursday if you want to chat!

Have a good week,

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Dean's Open Office Hours

The Dean will be available [via Zoom](#) for open office hours on Thursday, March 25 from 2:30-4pm.

Advising Corner

Midterm Grades

Midterm grades are due by 10 a.m. on Wed, Mar 24. The entry of midterm grades gives students a sense of where they stand in your course and helps them to make a decision(s) on whether to continue in a course(s) or drop with a W. Students who are particularly struggling with a course should be advised to contact the Arts and Sciences Dean's Office to discuss the potential for withdrawing from a course. Students have through Wednesday, Mar 31 to drop a course with a W.

As you have conversations with advisees during registration appointments, please consider discussing low midterm grades as relevant. Research has clearly demonstrated that adviser feedback regarding academic performance is a critical piece of student retention and improved and academic performance. A few reminders about the impact of a W, **most notable being that if a student is enrolled in 12 credits, dropping a course with a W, will not take him/her/them to part-time standing.**

Financial: A student registered for 12 credit hours withdrawing from a course, is still attempting credit for 12 credit hours, so remains a full-time student, registered and billed for 12 credit hours. The transcript will reflect that 12 hours were attempted for a given term. Withdrawing from too many courses can impact ability to qualify for financial aid. See <https://www.drake.edu/finaid/genpolicies/sap/>.

Academic: A student who withdraws from a course does not earn credit for the course and has a W posted to his/her transcript for that course. While the W doesn't impact a Drake GPA, graduate schools may treat the W the same as an F and refigure the cumulative GPA. If the course in which a student earned a W is retaken, both the new grade and the W will appear on the transcript.

Athletic: Withdrawing from a course may have implications for your athletic eligibility. Per NCAA requirements, all student-athletes need to remain actively enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits each semester and meet continuing degree progress benchmarks. Students should consult with student-athlete compliance staff before withdrawing from a course.

Registration for Summer and Fall 2021 and J-Term 2022

Registration for the above terms begins on Monday, Apr 5. A great reference page for all-things registration, including the registration time tables, listing of restricted courses and a link to the how-to-register video is www.drake.edu/registrar/registration/.



Bulldog Brass Performs Live During Basketball Games

The Bulldog Brass Band had a watch party in Sheslow Auditorium and the Courtside Suite during last week's Men's Basketball Games. They played along with the games and livestreamed their performance! For a picture gallery from the Des Moines Register, [visit this website.](#)

Note from Community Engaged Learning Office

The Community Engaged Learning Office has partnered with Stanford University's working group, [Pathways for Civic Action and Social Change](#). This is a great way for Drake students to find their path toward creating social change, discover community organizations, and learn about community engagement. Drake organizations or professors hosting academic courses can request a virtual or in-person Pathways training session at servicelearning@drake.edu.

Mental Health First Aid Training Opportunities

Sarah Grady, faculty member in CPHS, will be facilitating two sessions of Mental Health First Aid training. There are 4 spots open in a training session scheduled for March 25 – 8:30-4:00 in Fitch 102 and 3-4 spots open in the training scheduled for June 1 – 8:30- 4:00.

Please respond to melissa.sturm-smith@drake.edu as soon as possible if you would like to participate in one of these sessions.

Drake All In; Call for Help!

All In 2021 is fast approaching and as always the robust involvement of our colleges and schools is vital to the overall success of the event. This year All In is on Apr. 8-9 from noon to noon and the website is drake.edu/allin.

As a part of our All In efforts this year, UCM is working to create a video project that demonstrates the kindness and connections that keep us all feeling #DrakeTogether over the past year. We are calling it "All In for Each Other" and our plan is to gather Drake community-submitted 15 to 20 second shoutouts recognizing moments of triumph, perseverance, kindness, transformation and strength. We will then edit these together into a longer montage video to share for All-In. There's more information in the Oncampus link [here](#). The more submissions we have, the stronger the final product will be.

If you manage a social media account for your department, sharing this event on your pages and encouraging followers to RSVP is a great first step to increasing awareness. [The link is here](#). You can find the original post with text and image on the Drake Alumni Facebook page.

Meeting Free Days

The day off from meetings that was scheduled this past November 3rd was a welcome break, and enhanced the mental and emotional well-being of students, staff, and faculty. This spring, there will be one day each month designated as meeting-free. Note—only three of these days occur during the spring academic semester. Faculty are encouraged to lighten the load for students on these days, and may choose to cancel class as appropriate and at their discretion.

Upcoming meeting-free dates:

- **Wednesday 14 April**
- Tuesday 27 May
- Wednesday 23 June

Important Action Items:

Budget Requests

To request funds for presenting at virtual professional conferences and for materials for teaching blended and/or virtual classes, please fill out the [following form](#) and return to [Ashley Rasmussen](#). Full-time faculty are eligible for up to \$500 in funds for registration to virtual conferences for which they are presenters. Requests for teaching materials will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The dean's office will submit requests to the provost's office for final approval.

[COVID-19: University Updates Page](#)

Reading Corner

[One year into the pandemic, what are you most sick of?](#)

A&S Important Dates

The full fall calendar is located [here](#).

- April 1
Award Forms for A&S Convocation Due to Kayla Jenkins
- April 8
DUCURS
- April 29
A&S Honors Convocation
- April 30
A&S All-Faculty Meeting

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