

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: President Robert Robbins <http://president.arizona.edu/>

DATE: December 7, 2020

GOALS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### **Spring Re-Entry**

- For Spring 2021 Re-Entry, the University will implement an enhanced Test, Trace, and Treat protocol in order to support the health and safety of our campus community. This protocol includes required weekly COVID-19 testing for all dorm students and all students attending class in-person on the Main Campus. Additionally, any student visiting campus to access other services will be expected to have taken a University of Arizona diagnostic test within the previous week. If students do not fulfill testing requirements and expectations, they will not have access to the UA WiFi network.
- A working group with representation from the Public Health Advisory Campus Team (PHACT), Faculty Senate, CSC, Human Resources, Risk Management, RII, OGC and additional faculty members is being assembled in order to provide recommendations on a potential employee testing program. In the interim, employees are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the free and convenient COVID-19 testing resources on campus.
- Antigen tests will be used to support large-scale testing blitzes. Ongoing surveillance testing will deploy a combination of antigen tests and Saline Gargle PCR (SG-PCR) tests. When feasible, we will shift primarily to using SG-PCR tests, which provide superior sensitivity to antigen tests. Additionally, antibody testing will continue to be available for all students, employees, and designated campus colleagues.

### **Student Support**

- The Executive Office of the President was pleased to partner with the Graduate & Professional Student Council (GPSC) and Arizona Catering to provide students staying in Tucson over the break with a free meal on Wednesday, November 25. Over a four-hour period, more than 1,000 meals were distributed.
- From March 25, 2020 – December 3, 2020, a total of 4,835 unique students received nearly \$3.5M in financial support from the Student Emergency Fund.
- Since the onset of COVID-19, the Campus Pantry has seen 12,411 users and distributed more than 45 tons of food. The significant increase in Campus Pantry usage is largely attributed to the financial impact of COVID-19.
- I am pleased to share that a collaborative search process is under way to hire four mental health counselors who will be embedded in African American Student Affairs (AASA), Asian Pacific American Student Affairs (APASA), Guerrero Student Center (GSC), and Native American Student Affairs (NASA). The creation of an embedded counselor model in each Cultural Center will significantly reduce the barriers Queer and Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (QT+BIPOC) often face in accessing culturally responsive mental health care. These positions, jointly funded by the Executive Office of the President and Campus Health Service, are an important step towards creating the institutional change necessary to meet the demands of our student population.

## **Student Accountability**

- COVID-19 compliance issues comprised 51% of all DOS Student Code of Conduct cases in Fall 2020.
- Due to the Tucson Police Department's increased red tag surveillance, 36 red tag cases resulted in students being suspended from the University of Arizona (many pending appeal to the University of Arizona Hearing Board) for violating Tucson nuisance laws for inappropriate gatherings. In addition to violating the law, they would have been a source of spread of COVID-19 had they been allowed to continue. This is a 106% increase in suspensions compared to the 2019-2020 Academic Year.
- Fifty off campus events (Red Tags) were referred to DOS in Fall 2020 resulting in a 133% increase in off campus Red Tag referrals compared to the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Eighty students were referred to the DOS in relation to these off-campus events.
- The Dean of Students Office (DOS) engaged with students and parents in need of support, intervention, and guidance, particularly related to financial stress, mental health, physical illness, and isolation given the COVID-19 restrictions on campus.