

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: August 3, 2020

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS and UPDATES:

- In preparation for the fall semester, I continue to receive daily summaries of city, county, state, and national data related to COVID-19. Current data allows for cautious optimism. Key metrics include:
  - Arizona 7-day case average (trending down)
  - Number of cases in Pima county (trending down)
  - Number of deaths in Pima county (trending down)
  - Number of available ICU beds (trending up)
  - Number of available ventilators (trending up)
  - Rt, a key metric in how fast the virus is spreading, is below 1.0, meaning transmission is expected to slow
- The fall semester will begin as scheduled on August 24, with a mix of in-person and remote instruction. As announced, we will utilize an “on-ramp” approach. Last week’s message to faculty and staff did not include specific dates for this on-ramp plan, and we received feedback from our students and families that this did not provide enough specificity for their planning. When we communicated with students last week, we included our current dates for the on-ramp plan. Our approach will continue to be informed by the epidemiology of COVID-19 in the regions surrounding our campuses, local healthcare capacity, and our ability to respond effectively to possible transmission on campus. The University will monitor these conditions closely and communicate any changes, ideally with as much notice as possible.
- As of Friday, July 31, 2020, Housing & Residential Life had 5,787 active housing applications with a total bed capacity of 6,600. Unfortunately, Housing & Residential Life has started to see a trend of students withdrawing their Housing applications, which is usually a key indicator of overall new student enrollment.

The move-in process will require all residents to take a rapid antigen test in the McKale Memorial Center. Students with a negative result will be permitted to move into their assigned hall; students with a positive result will be encouraged to quarantine at home and offered a space in the isolation dorm if the student is unable to do so, where students will be monitored by Campus Health and have access to meal delivery. Following a minimum of 10 days of quarantine, Campus Health may release students to move into their regularly assigned halls.

- The FY21 budget allocations have been shared with Deans, Department Heads, and other University leaders. Along with our core values, the following guiding principles informed the process:
  1. Do no irreparable harm.
  2. Allow colleges and support units time to plan for possibly needed structural changes to position for the years to come.
  3. Consider fund balances.

#### 4. Support highly ranked programs and colleges.

Due to the unusual circumstances of the pandemic, we agreed to use, for the first time, projected activity for the coming year to build the budget. We will review the budget in October and in March after census data is available and will reconcile to actuals and true up at least once during FY21. In the event revenue exceeds current projections, we potentially could decrease the length of the proposed Furlough and Furlough-Based Salary Programs.

- The General Faculty Financial Advisory Committee (GFFAC) was created with members appointed by Jessica Summers, Chair of the Faculty. Lisa Rulney and Liesl Folks have met with GFFAC and provided relevant data in order to collaborate regarding strategies and solutions to the University's current budget crisis. I look forward to their presentation to the Faculty Senate today and to continuing to partner with shared governance groups as we approach the implementation of the furlough plan on August 10, 2020.
- Today I announced that the University has signed an agreement to substantially expand its online reach by acquiring the assets of Ashford University through a new nonprofit corporation, University of Arizona Global Campus, which was formed by, and will be operated in affiliation with, the University of Arizona. The mission of Global Campus will be to provide access to high-quality education to students everywhere in the world, including non-traditional adult learners. The University is guaranteed an upfront payment of \$37.5 million and an income stream of over \$225 million over the next 15 years. This decision was informed by input from a broad range of more than 200 stakeholders, including over 100 faculty from every college and more than 50 departments. Our main campus faculty will not be teaching or administering former degree programs from the former institution unless there is both mutual interest and opportunities. Arizona Online will continue unchanged. We will hold forums fall semester to answer questions and provide additional information.
- After thoroughly reviewing the demands submitted by the Coalition of Black Students and Allies (COBA), and under the direction of many of our colleagues with expertise in this area, I am allocating \$1M of my budget to diversity and inclusion initiatives across campus. I recognize that we are currently facing extreme financial challenges at the University, and yet I also know that the needs in this area are urgent and critical. Priorities for this funding include:
  - Faculty hires through the Strategic Priority Faculty Initiative (SPFI);
  - Mental health and wellness support for marginalized students;
  - Diversity and inclusion education and training initiatives; and
  - Enrolling, retaining, and graduating Black students.

#### GOALS:

- As we prepare for the start of the fall semester, my goal is to ensure the University is prepared to reenter campus in the safest manner possible. This will involve maximally reducing transmissibility through widespread adoption of recommended public health measures (i.e. face coverings, hand washing, physical distancing, etc.). We are also committed to monitoring data in real time and respond nimbly and flexibly should present conditions change.