

Fall 2020 Update from President Nowaczyk

FSU President <president@frostburg.edu>

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To: FSU President <president@frostburg.edu>

Good afternoon,

In addition to the updates below, as the start of the fall semester approaches, I want to remind you that our teams are working to understand, plan and respond to evolving data and recommendations concerning opening and the pandemic. While it is a complex and unprecedented situation, know that our decisions are based on the best information we have at that point in time. We are being driven by what is best for the health and safety of our community and by our mission to provide the best educational experience we can to our students.

Now, more than ever, watch your email and our other communication channels and review them carefully.

Here are this week's updates:

Academic Schedules: All of the courses in PAWS are now updated with new coding indicating whether they will be blended or online. Approximately 75% of undergraduate courses will be blended, and the remaining 25% will be fully online. (No classes will be fully face-to-face.) Students and advisors should review schedules and make adjustments as needed.

Quarantine/Isolation Plan: While the entire University will be doing what we can to prevent the spread of COVID, it is likely there will be students who test positive for the virus. For these students, we have developed a way to temporarily separate them from the campus to reduce the possibility of further transmission. (Note that the Allegany County Health Department will begin contact tracing these individuals to help prevent the spread as well.) On-campus students (residence halls and Edgewood residents) who chose to not return home for isolation will be transported to an off-campus hotel to be isolated in a private room for the appropriate period. Those students will receive food from Chartwells, get daily health check-ins from Brady Health, and have access to WiFi so they continue their studies. Students living off-campus will be expected to isolate in their off-campus residences or with their families; these students will also receive daily Brady Health check-ins.

Campus Meetings and Events: Revised guidelines for on-campus meetings and events have been put in place. These guidelines, which can be reviewed at [this link](#), will follow executive orders from Gov. Hogan as well as CDC guidelines. For events, social distancing, attendance limits (based on social distancing) and face masks will be required. Meetings should occur virtually. Reservations may be made now via the [EMS web app](#) for events beginning Aug. 10.

Some reminders:

Labor Day: Classes will be held on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7. Classrooms will be open, but most offices will be closed. Exempt and non-exempt staff will observe the Labor Day holiday; some may be scheduled to work that day and will be paid accordingly or granted the holiday on a different day, per the unit MOU.

Social Compact: Everyone – students, faculty and staff – is expected to review the [Social Compact](#) that will guide our interactions as a community through this crisis and watch the 5-minute video linked at the end. Then fill in the information at the end to acknowledge that you have done so. Here are some more examples of what following the [Social Compact](#) looks like:

- Your face mask covers your mouth AND your nose.
- You look for creative ways to “gather” with friends, colleagues or your organizations using virtual tools.
- You consider the inconveniences of adhering to the [Social Compact](#) as your way of caring for your community.

Daily Online Check-in: All employees are expected to check in every work day using the [Self-Monitoring COVID-19 Check-in](#) application at this [link](#). (You can also find this link on the Faculty/Staff page on the website.) **Please check in whether you are teleworking, coming to campus or taking a sick leave day.** (This is not required when on vacation or taking other leave time already scheduled with your supervisor.) A check-in for students is under development as well.

As this crisis continues on, I urge you not to become complacent. The changes we are making and the things we are asking everyone to do are how we are protecting each other and fighting back against the virus. The more we work together as Bobcats, the stronger we will be.

Stay safe and well,

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