

June 4, 2020

Subject: Reopening the University – Message 2

Dear Faculty Colleagues:

We have received many helpful comments in response to the [letter](#) we sent last Friday. We are trying to respond to everyone who wrote directly, but also bring the concerns raised into the various ongoing conversations about reopening the university. We understand there are many questions and a lot to do between now and the start of the semester. We want to assure you of our plans to consult and communicate with you regularly. In the coming days and weeks, we will do the following:

- 1) Meet with the Department Chairs Advisory Group and then with the department chairs on a regular basis to hear concerns and receive input and feedback;
- 2) Hold listening sessions with faculty, graduate students, and academic staff around key issues raised already (e.g., research impacts on archival researchers and field scientists; support and contingent planning for community members with families; physical restructuring of the work environment);
- 3) Consult with the Faculty Senate;
- 4) Consult with faculty and student members who serve on the Academic Council;
- 5) Consult with faculty and student members who serve on the University Committee on Women Faculty and Students (UCWFS);
- 6) Consult with representatives from the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) and other employee resource groups;
- 7) Establish a mechanism for anonymous input; and
- 8) Continue to use provost@nd.edu as a way for any Notre Dame community member to write to us directly with suggestions, input, or concerns.

Early next week we plan to write again with more details regarding a variety of issues, but wanted to let you know about these opportunities for you to pass along your input directly or indirectly.

To address one concern right away, we are following developments in decision-making regarding local public schools and childcare facilities closely and developing contingency plans around different potential outcomes. In addition, while we do think good public health practice is going to require us to extend the teaching day both because of classroom use and increasing the passing time between classes, we are asking deans, department chairs, and the registrar to be sensitive to family responsibilities in selecting teaching times for departmental courses. We are committed to ensuring that decision-making at Notre Dame – around COVID-19 and more broadly – is family-friendly.

We hope this message finds you well and finding time to enjoy this glorious weather. Know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Notre Dame,

Thomas G. Burish, Provost
Marie Lynn Miranda, Provost-Elect