

Subject: Update: Continued Development of Plans for Fall 2020
Date: Friday, July 10, 2020 at 4:10:24 PM Central Daylight Time
From: UWA President
To: All Faculty and Staff, All Students
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A Message from UWA President Ken Tucker

Dear UWA Family,

We are a little more than a month away from the beginning of a new semester and well into our phased Return-to-Work Plan, and on behalf of University leadership and the Board of Trustees, I want to commend the admirable dedication, patience, and integrity shown throughout the challenges we continue to experience. Your cooperation, flexibility, and commitment have made it possible for our campus to continue adapting to changes necessitated by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students have patiently and cooperatively adjusted their schedules—and for many, living arrangements—to complete the spring semester, perhaps take summer courses, and register for the coming fall semester. Faculty and staff have safely and efficiently maintained transitional operations through remote work, online instruction, virtual meetings, staggered hours, and flexible schedules to help ensure that our students receive a quality educational experience amidst a host of unprecedented challenges.

The pandemic has created a frustrating sense of uncertainty, despite an oftentimes overwhelming amount of information from every direction. In every aspect of our daily lives, it seems, there is some new guidance or direction each day or week for the next, yet we are burdened by the tentativeness of our schedules. We look to one another for assurance, as we have not likely experienced a crisis of this scale or without faster resolutions.

Some organizations and institutions around the state and nation have provided what they hope will be realistic plans for the future. Likewise, UWA has developed individual unit plans that adhere to guidelines and government edicts. Still, conditions change weekly, even daily in some respects, and we will continue to monitor those and develop new components of our fall operations plan accordingly. This plan is being steered by input and expertise from the major areas of campus, and will offer as much detail and as many specifics as possible, along with the

flexibility that has carried us successfully thus far. Final comprehensive plans will be announced near the end of July, so as to avoid a continuous flow of fast-changing information that would require retractions or further changes.

Right now, faculty are developing plans for classroom instruction and delivery alternatives with guidance from academic affairs. Staff continue adapting operations for administrative services and support. Students have been notified of move-in procedures by UWA Housing, as well as registration protocols by academic affairs. We will certainly maintain the health and safety protocols already in place, and we will follow the appropriate guidance in establishing any new protocols necessary to return as safely as possible.

While areas around campus are still finalizing fall plans, we are preparing for Orientation on August 13-14, and classes begin August 17. Student housing will be open and available, and while our schedules and activities will likely be adjusted, creative plans are being developed to give everyone the best possible campus experience this fall. Please remember that the University is committed to providing opportunities for engagement and success while maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and patience as we all work together to maintain good health and safety on our campus in anticipation of the Fall Semester 2020.

Take care and be safe,



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