

Subject: Update from the Back-to-Work Task Force
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 at 4:48:21 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Tucker, Ken
To: All Faculty and Staff
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A Message from UWA President Ken Tucker

Update from the Back-to-Work Task Force

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of UWA administration and the board of trustees, I would like to thank you for the cooperation, flexibility, and commitment you have shown in recent months as our campus has continued to respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Because you have pressed on despite the many challenges, our students have completed another semester in their academic programs, some now even having completed their degrees and moving into their careers.

As many of you know, a Back-to-Work task force was established last month to outline plans for bringing employees back to campus safely. This process is ultimately circular, in that we will gradually return to something close to what we considered “normal” prior to COVID-19, although our daily operations will look different from a few months ago. Just as our on-campus time was reduced beginning in March when we began transitioning online the week prior to Spring Break, then greatly minimized as state and federal orders and guidance were enacted and the online transition was completed, we expect that we can use a phased approach to safely return to operations subject to healthcare and government guidance.

The process of employees returning to normal operations will begin Monday, June 1. Employees will slowly resume normal work with adjusted schedules for individual offices, departments, and physical spaces. Just as we did in March and part of April, employees will split schedules/days, or other arrangements as appropriate, then slowly increase days

or hours until normal operating hours are achieved safely. This will understandably look different for various offices, and I ask for your continued cooperation in making this return as smooth as possible for everyone. Please begin working within your departments now to develop plans that best suit your needs and abilities.

With this return, we will enact several safety measures in an effort to maintain a healthy environment. We will continue following social distancing protocols, using masks where necessary, monitoring temperatures, limiting visitors on campus, providing accommodations for vulnerable individuals, and following other healthcare guidance. During these phases of reopening, no events or gatherings are encouraged; however, if there is some such instance that cannot be avoided, please be sure that the Physical Plant has ample advance notice so additional disinfecting practices can be maintained. Other restrictions, including university travel, and protocols for self-reporting/isolation will remain in place until conditions are deemed safe to change.

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,



Ken Tucker, Ph.D.

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