July 7, 2020

Dear Students,

Throughout this summer, your staff and administrators have been busily preparing for a semester that brings with it a number of challenges. We’re working with the University to ensure the safest learning environment possible for our students – which means that we’ll be making some changes to our schedules, classrooms, and programs.

I’m writing today with two important updates.

Course Schedule
As previously announced, we are still planning to offer most of our courses in person, although a few will be offered remotely or partially remotely. With respect to our in-person courses, and in light of the public health recommendation that students sit at least six feet apart, each classroom will have a greatly reduced capacity. By borrowing some space from the University and modifying some of our own classrooms, we have been able to schedule the vast majority of classes in the same time slot as they were originally scheduled when you enrolled in the spring. Some classes, however, will be offered at different times while other courses will be capped at a number smaller than the current enrollment in the class. To address this problem, we have developed additional sections of some classes and converted other classes to partially online (which will allow us to accommodate more students). Here are some further points to keep in mind:

- The revised Fall Semester Course Schedule will be released on the morning of Tuesday, July 21.
- When the new schedule is released, all students will remain enrolled in the classes they enrolled in this past April. If, because of changes to the schedule, two of your courses conflict, you will have an opportunity to drop one class and, if you wish, add a different class in its place. If you are in a class that has now been capped at a number lower than the current enrollment, there is a chance you may have to switch into a newly created section of that same class that is offered at a different time, or in rare cases, to a new class entirely.
- We are still developing the process through which students can resolve conflicts in their schedules or transfer into new sections of the same course, but at this time, we anticipate that the process will occur in late July – thus giving students enough time to process the potential changes in their schedule. Please know that we understand the hardship that schedule changes may cause, and we are working very hard to reduce that potential hardship in any way possible.
- Please visit the University’s COVID-19 Response Page for more info on the health and safety plan for the fall. All students will be required to be tested for COVID before returning to campus, and more details on that process are forthcoming.

Community Meeting
I know this semester brings with it a number of questions and a good deal of uncertainty. We’ll host a virtual community meeting on Monday, July 20 at 6 p.m. to share some additional updates and answer your questions in regard to the Fall Semester (Zoom link to join meeting available here). This session will be recorded and posted to Blackboard for those unable to attend. We’ll also launch a webpage in late July with

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comprehensive updates pertaining to the Fall Semester, including information on courses, building access, study spaces, and more.

Once again, I’m grateful to be a part of a community that has responded and adapted so well during this difficult time. I look forward to seeing you, virtually, on July 20. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Dean Sklut, Dean Preis, or me with your questions.

Sincerely,

Dean Perdue

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