



March 3, 2021

Dear Law School Community,

I'm writing to share with you a few updates that were announced at yesterday's Community Meeting. Although the meeting was not recorded in an effort to allow full and open conversation, I did want to provide some important take-aways for the entire student body.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Please check [our website](#) for updates in our ongoing work, including a new climate survey, enhanced outreach in student recruitment, and the expansion of faculty annual reports to include issues of classroom inclusivity.

Naming Policies & Procedures

- Last week, the University issued a report on the continued study of our institutional history, with updates on the University's approach to naming issues. I encourage you to read that email and report [here](#), and to participate in the [open community forums](#) on the subject.
- Some of you have raised appropriately the question of the name on our diploma. The University has treated that as a separate issue from the naming of buildings or schools, and has agreed that the diploma should only bear the name of the University of Richmond School of Law and no longer the T.C. Williams School of Law. This change will be effective for the Class of 2021.

Tuition

- Later this week the University will post tuition for the 2021-2022 school year, with an increase of \$950 per semester. Law School tuition is set by the Board of Trustees and reflects the Board's judgment about the resources it takes to maintain the quality of the education we expect at the University of Richmond.
- Students inquired whether going forward there could be an opportunity for student input on tuition, including the opportunity to communicate with the Board of Trustees. At the meeting I committed to exploring possible options on this.

Expanded Support: Emergency Fund + Summer Public Interest Fellowship

- We have been working hard to provide some additional support and resources to our students.
- I'm excited to announce that we've increased our guaranteed Summer Public Interest Fellowship from \$3,500 to \$4,000, effective starting this summer.
- Additionally, we're replenishing our [emergency fund](#) to support students.

Academics

203 Richmond Way
University of Richmond, VA 23173
(804) 289-8740 Fax: (804) 289-8992

law.richmond.edu



- The two-week exam period will start on April 26, and will operate in the same manner as Fall 2020 exams. Please contact Dean Preis or Dean Sklut should you have any questions or concerns.
- We're pushing back registration for the fall semester to July 2021, to provide more time to see how the circumstances surrounding the pandemic develop. We'll share what courses will be available well in advance of registration. Registration for the spring semester will take place in the fall.
- As for the fall academic schedule, we're hopeful to have a schedule that would include Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break, and a Study Week. We're working with the faculty on this front, and will report back.
- Stay tuned for emails from Dean Preis with more academic updates throughout the semester.

COVID Updates

We're pleased that our prevalence tests have yielded no positive results so far this semester. Please see Dean Sklut's recent email about the new approach to prevalence testing, and keep up the good work!

Commencement

Some students voiced concern over the phased plan for commencement, and asked if the law school could have separate guidelines from the undergraduates. Because the central University plans and executes our commencement ceremony, we must follow their official guidelines for this event. Please visit [the commencement website](#) for full details.

Thanks to all of you for a helpful and substantive discussion – and for all that you do to make our Richmond Law community a healthy, strong, and inclusive one.

Sincerely,

Dean Perdue