


April 27, 2020

Memo To: Pivoting to Fall: Scenario Planning Committee
(See Roster attached)

From: Beth A. Boehm 
Executive Vice President and University Provost

Re: APPOINTMENT TO SCENARIO PLANNING COMMITTEE

“Will we have students on campus in the fall?” I’ve been asked this question many times in recent weeks, and my answer has been less than satisfying to most of our faculty, staff, and students, whose safety is our number one concern. It’s difficult to know with certainty if it will be safe to bring everyone back when there is no certainty around predictions of the course the COVID-19 virus will take. Our expectation is that we will be back on campus in the fall, teaching our students face-to-face, but that there will be some new social-distancing measures and other precautions we will take, as well as some new online accommodations we may need to make to deliver our academic programs if the virus returns this fall. We want to be prepared, no matter what course the virus takes. (see attached Chronicle article that includes a list of universities and their plans)

This note is to appoint you to a new committee, Pivoting to Fall: Scenario Planning Committee, with our focus on delivering our academic programs. I expect the committee to meet regularly (probably twice a week) for the month of May and to finish our work by early June. This will be a hard-working and essential committee, and your dean or vice provost has recommended your participation on this committee.

The committee will need to plan for face-to-face learning, hybrid learning, and online learning. Even if students are back on campus, we will need to prepare for different scenarios, including growing our online offerings to capture a student population that may be anxious to work on a degree remotely, so as not to be so vulnerable to job loss.

I am also appointing a couple of other committees to review and make recommendations regarding other specific areas, i.e.: Student Affairs (housing, dining, social events); COVID-19 Testing and Tracking/Campus Health; and Enrollment/Marketing. We will be sure that you have access to the activities/discussions of the other committees.

I have asked Beth Willey to co-chair the committee with me, since I think this is the most important task to take place this May. I look forward to having a list of recommendations by Wed., June 3. Thank you.

cc: Neeli Bendapudi