

Chair's Report
June 2020
Submitted by John Smith

Last month I referenced Groundhog Day in my report. I really wish I didn't feel like doing the same thing again.

Naturally the planned August "re-start" has dominated my meeting schedule. I have been on the President's senior leadership planning team since the very beginning. When the Provost announced the formation of three committees working on different parts of the re-start plan, I was added to the Coordinating Committee, which oversees each of the other committees. That committee is meeting a minimum of weekly and sometimes more. The senior leadership committees are meeting every other week now as much of the details of things coming from that group are being carried out by the three re-start committees.

Andrew, Rhonda and I had a long string of meetings with Parking about permits and possible refunds/stopping of deductions for people working remotely and not coming to campus. A campus wide email about refunds went out over a week ago giving people the option to receive a refund and not have deductions taken from their paychecks. We appreciate the cooperation from Gary Becker and Mark Watkins on that. We received a report from Mark Watkins that Parking has made over \$80,000 in refunds to people working from home and not needing to come to any of our campuses.

Some units are beginning to return to campus. I am now in my office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and working remotely Tuesday and Thursday. The SRC will re-open next Monday, June 15. I am looking forward to that and feel we have a good plan in place. Our re-opening will be one of the first tests to see what the Fall may look like.

I will say it has been impressive to see how our many committees have continued to do good work on behalf of our staff under these circumstances. Nobody wants to be doing what we are but it is a powerful testament to our resolve to see the level of engagement taking place that is.

I am looking forward to not including this statement in one of my reports. I still say the biggest thing that I find hard to deal with is the fact that we don't know when this is going to be over. It would be so much easier to say "just stick it out until the end of June, July or whatever and everything will be OK" but we just don't know that. The un-certainty of the entire Covid-19 scenario is hard to deal with mentally.

Now, more than ever, what you do makes a real difference in the lives of people. Thank you for all you are doing. I am proud of our group and the individuals that comprise it.