

Hello,

Tomorrow marks four weeks until the last day of in-person classes. The finish line for the semester is in sight, and I know you are counting down and working hard to get there. I want to share some updates with regard to registration and the Spring 2021 semester.

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Registration

As you know, students start registering for winter intersession and spring classes tomorrow. Academic Affairs and Student Success have worked together on the process for handling student requests for fully online classes for next semester. We are hoping that students will be able to do much of the schedule juggling for themselves this time around, since all classes being offered fully online, synchronous or asynchronous, are listed as such in the course schedule and able to be identified by the student. **However, in the event that a student reaches out to you about a fully online schedule for the spring, please have them contact questions@longwood.edu for assistance.**

Just as occurred for the fall semester, Student Success will work with those students to identify as many virtual participation options as possible among current online courses and faculty-approved virtual options. To help us expedite this process, your college associate dean will reach out to you if it is anticipated that your courses will be blended to ask whether you are comfortable with a student

participating virtually for the whole semester. If you were asked about this for the fall semester, please be aware that you may change your mind for your spring semester courses. Student Success will provide a list of students who have been approved to participate completely virtually in one of your courses prior to the beginning of the Spring semester.

The goal is to have the majority of these requests submitted and resolved prior to winter break, allowing time to work with new students and students with new situations closer to the start of classes.

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Spring Break

You may have heard that other universities in Virginia have announced plans to cancel Spring Break 2021 and to adopt alternative smaller breaks during the semester. Public health considerations make it unlikely that we will hold a week-long spring break. We will be seeking input from faculty through Faculty Senate about what alternative we might adopt. If we have learned one lesson from this fall, it is that we need to have a break during the semester, but we do not want to risk public health while doing so. You will be hearing more from your senators about this topic after this week's Senate meeting.

In a normal semester, this is usually a very busy time with advising, grading, and committee work; COVID measures have made everything even more challenging. As overwhelming as this semester has been, I encourage you to remember that you have still contributed to your students' knowledge and worldview, helping to shape what their future will be. That continues to be valuable, for them and for all of us. Thank you for your hard work and fortitude.

Best wishes,
Lara

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