

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this note finds you well and managing these final weeks of the semester. We are eager to share updates on plans for summer and fall with you, and also want to express special thanks to all those who have been working hard to develop viable options for our students as we negotiate the many unknowns.

### **Update on Summer 2020 Options**

The Summer Session Working Group, which includes members of the Dean's Office, the Office of Admissions, Academic Advising and Student Success, Student Affairs, the Office of International Student Affairs, and the Registrar as well as faculty representatives from Executive Council, is currently in the process of finalizing operational details and organizing course offerings. Students in the constituencies whose needs we are working to meet have received an information sheet with details about the summer session course calendar, eligibility, registration, housing and dining, financial aid, and student employment. We are including this same information sheet in this message for your interest and information. Advisers and department chairs may find this especially helpful, as they will likely begin hearing from students soon about the summer sessions, if they have not already. Enrollment in these courses will be limited because we are seeking to meet the needs of students under very particular circumstances. **We recommend that students and advisers check the eligibility criteria carefully before making inquiries.**

The generous response to last week's call for summer session course ideas is a testament to our community's notable commitment to academic continuity. Thank you to the over 50 educators who took the time amidst all that you are balancing right now to submit ideas. The Curriculum Committee is in the process of reviewing these ideas with an eye toward balancing offerings across the curriculum by level and division. Our target number of offerings at this point is eight courses but will vary depending on student interest.

The Summer Session Working Group will be in touch with faculty who submitted course ideas tomorrow, April 22, to provide information about the Curriculum Committee's recommendations and next steps. We apologize that the process has moved forward prior to the previously announced April 23 deadline for expressions of interest and course ideas, and we continue to ask for—and greatly appreciate—

your flexibility as we move through a planning process with a significant number of contributors and moving parts.

Looking ahead to the coming days, we hope to announce likely course content areas on Friday, April 24, and the final slate of courses no later than Friday, May 1. Summer registration begins on Monday, May 4, and will follow existing advising and registrations processes.

We cannot thank you enough for your incredible generosity and commitment.

### **Thinking, Researching, Planning for Fall 2020 and Academic year 2020–21**

We have always thought creatively about the academic experience at Grinnell, and we are bringing that same ingenuity and collaborative effort to what that will look like in the fall. Our process for the Fall 2020 and Academic Year 2020–21 begins with brainstorming many creative and flexible ideas. We are also gathering data about the feasibility and impacts of these ideas. The research gathered in this iterative process will shape models for Fall 2020 and Academic Year 2020–21 that we can share and shape with stakeholder groups in making our recommendations to President Kington.

Our guiding principles in this work are flexibility, equity, academic experience, and workload of faculty, staff, and students. Internal considerations, such as financial impact, and external considerations, such as athletics, will feature in our work. Additional campus partners will join the Academic Continuity team meetings precisely because we need their expertise on issues that newly intersect with the academic experience, such as our capacity to isolate students should they become ill as the College does not have an infirmary.

We are setting ourselves specific, weekly benchmarks for design and planning between now and late May so that we can make our recommendations and announce our fall academic plans on June 1. Good, compelling opportunities take time to craft, and we are committed to doing so.

We remain grateful for your patience, and continue to welcome your questions, which help us in our thinking and ensure that we consider as many alternatives as possible.

In solidarity and admiration,

Anne F. Harris, Dean of the College  
Todd Armstrong, Chair of the Faculty