

Dear Colleagues,

As we near the end of this unprecedented semester in the College's history, we remain grateful for all you continue to do to support our students as they complete their coursework. We offer here updates and information.

1) Summer Session: Eligibility and Other Information

Planning for the summer session—and for summer at Grinnell more generally—is proceeding quickly. We anticipate announcing the final slate of offerings for the College's first official summer session since 1947 tomorrow, May 1. For those eligible, registration will begin on Monday, May 4, and will run through Monday, May 11.

We encourage you to take a look at the comprehensive "Grinnell Summer 2020" information sheet/FAQ, [which you can find here](#). It provides information about the summer session, including eligibility and registration; summer housing and dining; financial aid; internships; MAPs; and more.

2) Fall 2020 Options: The Research Phase

Six research groups within the Academic Continuity team reported their feedback on the dozen or so different educational models for fall semester, several of which have been assembled in this [synopsis in *Inside Higher Ed*](#). The six research groups analyzed the education models through the respective lenses of the student experience, student enrollment and financial impact, health and safety and campus impact, faculty and staff experience, curricular impact, and community impact. Thank you to the nearly 50 faculty, staff, and students who lent their expertise and perspectives to this work. Further research is being conducted on modularity, later start times, multiple decision points, and overall flexibility. Our next step is to investigate a small handful of options in greater detail. Iterative discussion with departments and divisions as well as further research will occur over the next two weeks before we present the final options to President Kington about the third week of May.

We are also starting to think about what resources we will need to make the changes to next year work as well as possible, and how to manage and mitigate risks, especially since we still face challenges like a lack of testing capability. We welcome your contributions and ideas and, if you wish, your participation.

3) Blackboard (Pweb) Using Duo Two-factor Authentication April 30, After 9 p.m. CDT

We want to assure you that we gave this change careful consideration. While we acknowledge

this is far from an ideal time to consider changes to key campus platforms such as our learning management system, a noticeable increase in potentially malicious cyber activity makes improved security to protect this critical teaching and learning resource urgent. For this reason, Blackboard (PWeb) is being added to the College's single sign-on (SSO) system and Duo two-factor authentication will be required for access starting today, Thursday, April 30, 2020, after 9 p.m. CDT.

This authentication process is the same as some other College applications, including Office365, and so will result in a much more streamlined experience for most people. If you are already signed into other College SSO applications, including Office 365, you may not need to enter any credentials at all.

We hope this does not cause undue hardship in the final weeks of the semester. If you do have any issues with Blackboard, our colleagues in ITS are there to assist you. Please contact ITS by phone, 641-269-4901; email, ITServices@Grinnell.edu; or online at Help.grinnell.edu. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

4) Update on Cut/Close/Balance

The Cut/Close/Balance deadline has been officially extended to Friday, May 8. The online Add/Drop period will begin on Tuesday, May 12. The Registrar's Office has notified both faculty and students of these changes. We understand that this is a labor-intensive process, especially in light of the format for fall semester still coalescing, but we deeply appreciate, indeed need, a baseline of our current students' curricular needs as we seek to find the safest, most engaged way to meet them.

5) Book Allowance Still in Effect

The increased book allowance from professional development funds approved earlier this semester remains in effect until June 30, 2020. Please make use of your funds judiciously.

6) Community Friday Reminder

The discussion tomorrow will center around current challenges to physical and mental wellness for students, faculty, and staff. Participants from SHAW and Student Affairs will explore advice for maintaining wellness under the current challenges. Panelists include Terry Mason, dean for health and wellness; Sarah Moschenross, associate vice president of student affairs; Ben Newhouse, dean of students; Megan Baldree, assistant dean of student success; and Todd Armstrong, professor of Russian and chair of the faculty.

As always, we welcome and appreciate your questions and concerns, and hope we can address them as we continue our work. We also ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to respond to the many issues that face the College moving forward.

In admiration and solidarity,

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