

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 01-22-21
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Colleagues,

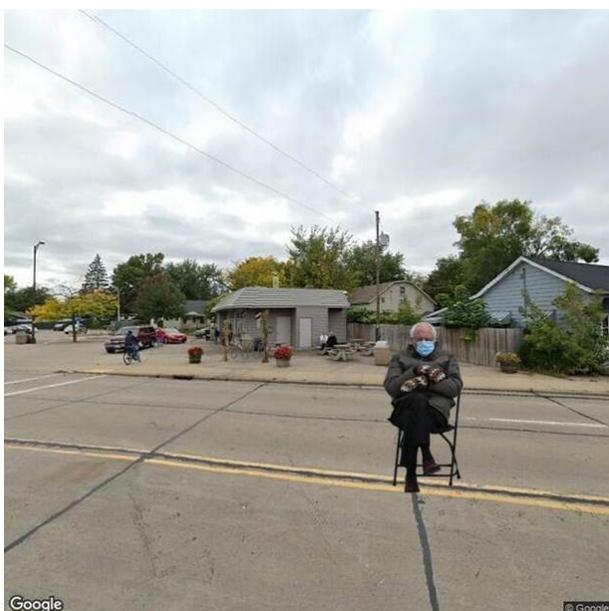
Welcome back to the Spring 2021 semester!

I'm not one for dabbling in internet memes, but given our last few weeks of tense events in the nation's capital, such distractions have been helpful. Like many people, I enjoyed [the attention](#) that Senator Bernie Sanders received for his inaugural fashion statement, which featured a cozy winter parka and mittens hand-sewn "from repurposed and up-cycled sweaters." So, in the spirit of the week, here's the Senator sporting his look in front of Old Main.

As we prepare for next week, I write with two brief notes:

- Human Resources asked me to remind faculty and instructional academic staff that you do need to report the furlough days you are taking in addition to initially requesting those days. Please see the instructions available at this [link](#).
- Recently, we all received guidance regarding the new UW System employee testing requirement for COVID-19. I understand there are still many questions regarding how specifically we should be meeting these expectations. The university will be providing further instructions to supervisors and adding FAQs to the COVID website. However, for now, please know that the spirit of this requirement is to expand our surveillance testing beyond residential students to include any student or employee who is regularly on campus. The intent is not to screen people prior to their coming to campus, but rather simply to help slow the spread of the virus through routine proactive testing. Generally, if employees are on campus at least once per week, they should participate in this program and get tested once every two weeks. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to help protect the health of our campuses and the broader community.

We all know that 2020 was a strange and difficult year, and thus far, 2021 has had its share of crazy. But the days are growing longer, vaccines are on the way, and speaking personally, it feels good to work for an institution whose purpose is to foster the pursuit of truth through critical thinking, a skill the world appears sorely to need. For now, please enjoy this picture of Bernie Sanders at Belts' Soft Serve, which will open again in a few weeks as our own local harbinger of spring.



Have a good weekend.

Greg

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Greg Summers

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