

**From:** [Summers, Greg](#)  
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Colleagues,

Happy Friday! As we near the home stretch in this long pandemic year, I'm writing today with a few updates below:

- First, as I hope you're aware, between now and June 1, all faculty and staff need to enroll in multifactor authentication (MFA). This kind of enhanced security has become a familiar aspect of modern life in our banking apps, online shopping, and other digital tools. Now, it is essential to protect our key university accounts and systems. Expanding this initiative is a major undertaking for our colleagues in IT, and there are sure to be many questions. I encourage you to sign up as soon as possible, and well before the June 1 deadline. This is especially important for faculty and staff members on nine-month contracts. You can find complete information and instructions on the [MFA webpage](#).
- Our steering committee has made good progress drafting outcomes and strategies for our Academic Plan. Next week, we'll begin sharing an early draft with key stakeholders including college and unit leadership groups and the Common Council Executive Committee. Although Chancellor Gibson has requested a five-year plan, he has agreed that we can prioritize our work this spring on finalizing goals for the coming year. We'll have time next fall semester to refine longer-term outcomes. My hope is to circulate broadly to the division a revised draft of our document during the first week of May.
- Among the outcomes we'll include in our Academic Plan will be strategies that respond to the call in Purpose Made Possible to provide greater transparency in budget issues. I hear anecdotally that folks have lots of budget questions, and I want to encourage people to ask. Both Katie Jore and I are happy to answer questions by email at any time. I also hold a weekly office hour via Zoom. So far this year, I've had a grand total of three people visit, and two of those were accidents! (People saw the MOD reminder and mistakenly thought there was a presentation.) I'm perfectly happy to have the hour each week to work quietly and sip my coffee. But I'm also happy to answer questions, on budget or any issue.
- Draft guidelines for fully returning to campus this summer and fall are also in preparation, both from members of the EOC and separately from Human Resources. We should soon be able to share these for review, hopefully in the next two weeks. Please stay tuned.

- Finally, it's worth noting that Ramadan this year, which started last week and ends on May 12, will conclude right at the end of the semester. There's some concern that students facing high-stakes final exams and projects may struggle to be at their best if they're fasting. Please bear this in mind if students ask for flexibility or accommodations.

Thanks very much. Hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

Greg

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