

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 09-11-20
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Colleagues,

As we conclude the second week of classes in this pandemic semester, we have had what seems like a predictable, and sadly typical, experience thus far. [Case counts are rising quickly](#), from 12 during the first short week of class to more than 50 new weekly cases as of yesterday evening. As on most campuses across the country, we've done a good job reducing the risk of contracting the virus in classrooms and instructional settings. However, slowing the spread off-campus and in residential settings has proven more challenging. At UW-Stevens Point, there do not yet appear to be major clusters in particular locations. Rather, the virus is simply doing what a novel respiratory virus does. Our mechanisms for notifying affected classes and departments appear to be functioning well, but if you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

I have just a few reminders and updates below:

- Facilities would like to remind faculty and instructors that there are cleaning kits available in each classroom for use by you and your students. Each individual is encouraged to use these cleaning supplies to sanitize their workspace as they enter for class. In addition, please know that Facilities is cleaning each instructional space twice daily, so this individual cleaning provides an extra layer of protection.
- I will be resuming my weekly "check-in" meetings with deans, chairs, and directors in Academic Affairs beginning this Monday at 3pm. If you have concerns you would like discussed, please contact your supervisor to let them know.
- I will also resume my weekly office hour this Wednesday morning, from 8-9am via Zoom. Please watch the MOD for the appropriate link.

As a final reminder, please know that lots of people and offices have been swamped already trying to deal with the many logistical issues associated with operating in a pandemic, not to mention doing our "normal" jobs. I've encouraged patience, flexibility, and understanding before, but this bears repeating. Please be flexible with students regarding deadlines and assignments, as many are facing health concerns and quarantine, not to mention the general anxieties of the current moment. Please be flexible with staff members and colleagues, as many are dealing with disruptions in childcare, the burdens of home schooling, and caring for aging parents—all of which have become more complicated. If there was ever a time to demonstrate the kind of empathy in practice that we always teach in theory, it is now.

Thanks for all you are doing. I hope you take some time to enjoy the autumn weekend.

Greg

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