

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 02-26-21
Date: Friday, February 26, 2021 11:21:28 AM
Attachments: [COVID-19 update COVID-19 vaccination will begin for eligible students employees.msg](#)

Colleagues,

As we learned earlier today from the attached campus announcement, the university will receive its first shipments of vaccine next week and can begin the crucial task of vaccinating employees. This is an exciting and hopeful development. However, I want to echo the note of caution that we also read: we need to be patient in the weeks ahead as we wait for adequate supplies of vaccine. The university has prioritized staff members with the most in-person contact with students and the public. Yet even those in the Priority 1 category may need to wait several weeks for an available appointment, depending on how much vaccine we receive. Please follow the directions outlined in the campus announcement. With luck, we will all have the chance to be vaccinated by early this summer.

With that hope in mind, we continue working to finalize the Fall Schedule of classes. We've received requests from some faculty members to continue the pandemic-inspired practice of teaching individual courses in multiple modalities. We're endeavoring to make this possible, but as you might imagine, the issues raised are complicated. Ideally, we need to structure such courses in a way that provides the requested flexibility while at the same time ensuring that faculty can predict, plan, and manage their course experiences; that the university can attach appropriate fees; and that we can report course data on teaching load and modality as required by UW System.

For the fall semester, we're likely to pilot an approach that would allow an instructor to split a course section in two, with one defined as "in-person" and the second defined as either the synchronous "virtual classroom" or the asynchronous "online." This would allow interested faculty members to teach in two modalities while also preserving their ability to manage student expectations. This is not a perfect strategy, especially for our reporting on teaching load and modality of courses. However, it will allow faculty members to continue exploring new ways to broaden access and perhaps reach new groups of students. The Registrar's Office will reach out to departments on Monday as part of the regular Fall Schedule review process, and they will provide more details on what information they need to schedule any additional sections a department wishes to specify. The goal will be to have the additional sections in place when the Fall Schedule is published at the end of the day March 5th.

Thanks very much for all your continued work. I hope you enjoy a warmer, hopeful weekend.

Greg

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