

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 06-05-20
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Colleagues,

This has been a busy and significant week, both on campus and off, and next week promises to be equally significant. Here are a few updates.

- [An Inclusive Campus](#). We've all been watching the national drama following the murder of George Floyd with a mixture of dismay, sadness, and outrage. I don't wish to add to the drama, but I am struck by this thought: Now would be a good time to commit to making our own campus more inclusive in the coming year. As much value as we know higher education has for addressing these kinds of inequalities, it remains the case that universities have been remarkably resistant to embracing the kinds of institutionalized cultural changes that true equity demands. Race has been top-of-mind recently, but I'm thinking of gender, sexuality, and economic issues as well. I think we need to move the needle—at UWSP, within Academic Affairs—in some meaningful way next year. Lindsay Bernhagen, our Director of the Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning, has suggested building these kinds of equity-minded performance metrics into each of our annual personnel evaluations, which seems like an idea worth considering. I'm sure there are many others. Please know that I'll be asking for further input in the months ahead.
- [Fall Planning](#). This Tuesday, the chancellor and I will meet with the Common Council Executive committee to brief them on our progress and seek input. Two issues have become especially vexing (among many!). First, given the physical distancing that we'll need to impose in classroom settings, we will face significant limitations on available classroom capacity for any in-person teaching. These limitations, in turn, will constrain the options that might be available for individual instructors. Second, as I've already mentioned, since we are likely to have students unable or unwilling to attend courses in person, we'll need to provide online alternatives for the majority of our face-to-face learning activities, which will create significant workload demands. Our faculty/staff workgroups have made a variety of creative suggestions for meeting these challenges, and we hope to provide more detailed recommendations next week.
- [The UW System President Search](#). I know how frustrated many of you have been regarding this search process. And now, to have only one finalist at this stage has compounded those feelings. Please know that I've expressed these same concerns to my UW System colleagues, including one member of the search committee. As you have likely heard, the search committee's intent was to bring forward multiple finalists, but at least two candidates withdrew from consideration at the last minute. We were assured

at yesterday's Board of Regents meeting that the continued vetting of the candidate next week will be genuine, and that our input will be important to any final decisions on how to proceed. Please make what efforts you can to participate.

Thanks very much. Have a wonderful weekend.

Greg

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