



Binghamton University

Full Faculty Meeting

Harvey G. Stenger
President

Tuesday, September 1, 2020



Planning for Restart Binghamton

- **Mid-April 2020 - Public Health Advisory Group**
 - Johan Fiore-Conte, associate vice president for student affairs
 - Mario Ortiz, dean and professor of nursing for Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences
 - Richard Moose, MD, medical director of Decker Student Health Services Center
 - Yvonne Johnston, associate professor and founding director, Master in Public Health program
 - Hiroki Sayama, professor of systems science and industrial engineering
 - *Focus on health and safety of students, faculty and staff*
- **Early May 2020 - 15 subcommittees covering all aspects of restarting**
- **Mid-May 2020 - Return to Research Committee formed to restart on-campus research**
 - Led by Division of Research
 - 660 faculty, staff and students returned to on-campus research and creative activities



Calendar for fall and spring

- **Changes to the fall academic calendar**
 - Traditional fall holidays and religious breaks are suspended
 - Pre-Thanksgiving assessment period (no classes) Nov. 22-24
 - Post-Thanksgiving - online classes only
 - Dec. 7 last day of classes
 - No traditional final exam period, although Dec. 8-10 may include an assessment
- **Spring semester: potential start date of February 15**
 - No breaks and end by Friday of Memorial Day weekend (May 28)
 - Avoids much of peak flu season
 - Will create a longer winter term
 - Spring enrollment may strengthen
 - Commencement would be held before the semester ends
 - Planning is in progress



Faculty Preparation for Fall Semester

- Spring 2020
 - Faculty adopted (and adapted to) new technologies for remote learning – e.g., Zoom, Panopto
 - Worked with students to address technological challenges
- Summer has involved more investment of time and effort by you
 - Faculty had to design classes to be taught simultaneously in person and remotely – essentially two types of teaching (Bingflex)
- Campus support for faculty and TA's with technology and course delivery
 - CLT workshops on Bingflex
 - Instructional videos available as well as individual assistance and group training
 - Classroom technology assistants are available to help manage classroom interactions



Enrollment is strong

As of yesterday 17,992 (as of this morning = 18,152)

- UG confirmed = 14,217
- GD confirmed = 3,705
- Confirmed GD International = 968
- Confirmed UG International = 557
- 6,056 fully remote 3,628 voluntarily and 2,428 are due to scheduling
- We owe much credit to the way you have prepared for this semester.



Move-in and the start of the fall 2020 semester

- Seven-day, staggered arrival times to reduce densities
- Only students were permitted in residence halls
- All students living on campus have been tested for COVID-19
 - 6,232 students tested, 6,204 (99.55%) negative tests
 - 28 positive tests (.45%)
 - Testing rates reached 150 students per hour
 - students testing positive have returned home (24) or are in isolation dormitory (4)
- Very smooth move-in, thanks to 300+ faculty, staff and student volunteers
- Surveillance testing of students starts tomorrow – preference for off campus students



B First week of semester: a few observations



- Campus density is very low
- Students are glad to be back on campus and in classes
- Generally good observance of COVID-19 rules
- Good weather encouraging outdoor activities
- Students are being held accountable for violations of endangering others, on and off campus: housing suspensions and student conduct charges





Reporting COVID-19 violations

- Anyone can report violations of COVID-19 safety protocols at:
<https://www.binghamton.edu/rmac/covid-reporting.html>
 - Issues include:
 - Social distancing
 - Gatherings that exceed permissible numbers and/or include outside guests
 - Failure to use face coverings
- Reports routed to appropriate offices – office of student conduct, human resources, University Police
- Reports may be submitted anonymously, but this can limit investigation



Governor's recent criteria for higher education to remain in-person

- If a campus has 100 positive cases in a two-week period, they will be required to have two weeks of fully remote instruction; students will remain in on-campus housing
- In-person instruction and living has many benefits that fully remote instruction and living cannot provide
- We have done our best; it is now in the hands of our students to keep us in person.



Fiscal Challenges

- Costs for moving to remote instruction include:
 - \$25 million refunded fees and housing in spring 2020
 - \$2 million in extra expenses for spring and fall 2020
 - Using FEMA cost tracking standards
- State support is being reduced by 25% this year (\$10 million) plus \$6 million retroactive from last year
- Decrease in international and out-of-state tuition revenues (~\$20 million) could be higher
- Reduced housing revenues for fall (~\$12 million) spring uncertain
- Reduced student athletics fee revenues (~\$2 million)
- Offsets : University actions and federal support
 - Restructured student housing debt will save \$25 million each year, 2020-21 and 2021-22
 - Hiring pause and purchasing controls implemented to balance budget (15% of allocation held back until more certainty in offsets and shortfalls)
 - \$6 million in CARES act funding in July
 - Potential for \$30-40 million in federal support



Response to Social Justice Tragedies

- Campus announces establishment of George Floyd Scholarship for Social Change
 - Endowment of \$1.5 million; historically economically disadvantaged, underrepresented minorities; 85 applicants; decision on Sept. 14
- \$200,000 annual allocation to Clifford D. Clark Diversity Fellowship
- Campus Citizen Review Board established
 - 11-member board (2 co-chairs, 2 Faculty Senate, 2 Professional Staff Senate, 1 Student Association, 1 Graduate Student Association, 1 at-large) appointed by a Selection Panel
 - Will assess mental health support, community policing, arrest and student conduct records, monitor policies and procedures, receive and address complaints regarding policing
- Karen Jones: Founding VP DEI
- Common read *Just Mercy* and documentary film *13th*
- Goal is to ensure that Binghamton is a diverse and inclusive campus



Supporting victims of sexual assault and harassment

- Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS) Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey/social media concerns
 - Low number of Title IX reports vs. survey results showing 23% of women students experiencing unwanted sexual contact or comments
- Steps to address concerns and change campus culture
 - Creation of Title IX Council (Title IX officer, UPD, dean of students, health and counseling/CARE Team/student conduct/Residential Life/Health Promotion and Prevention director, Assoc. VP DEI)
 - Appointing a sexual violence counselor and two sexual violence investigators
 - Hire outside consultant to assess policies and procedures
 - Enhanced punishments for students/groups involved with sexual assault cases



Good news

- Celia Klin interim dean of Harpur College
- Hari Srihari stays as Watson College dean
- Pharmacy reaches full enrollment with fourth class of PharmD students
- Students appear happy to be back and not home
- Fall enrollment is currently ahead of last year, but we don't expect that to be maintained to day 10 due to international student unenrollment
- Construction projects coming in under budget and on schedule
 - Decker Building in Johnson City, Engineering Building, Hinman Dining



Questions?

