Dear Faculty and Staff Colleagues,

As mentioned in last week's Campus Update #3, President Roush has formed a Long-Term Contingency Committee to plan for possible scenarios which may play out due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a next step in this Committee’s work, ten subcommittees are being formed (each with six to 10 members) around each area of campus operation to develop that area’s plan of action under each scenario. We’ve identified a chair of each subcommittee, who will be reaching out in the next day or two to invite participation. Thank you to Brian Cusato, in particular, who has taken the lead on organizing this work.

Shared governance is a shared value at Centre, so members of all campus constituencies (faculty, staff, students, parents) may be tapped to contribute to, or respond to, plans developed by these subcommittees. To initiate this work, senior staff has brainstormed the initial membership of these subcommittees to include staff and faculty members we believe offer particular experience and expertise in the different areas. We expect that the subcommittees may then choose to reach out more broadly, as needed, to gather ideas and reactions from our broader community, including from our students. More information about this planning process is included in the attached PDF, and once people have been asked and accepted their subcommittee membership, we will quickly share the membership of those committees with everyone.

Please review this document when you can. I highlight below the four guiding principles that subcommittee members will be asked to commit to in this important work:

1. Prioritize our people and positive community ethos
2. Protect the rich diversity of our academic programs and liberal arts mission
3. Preserve all elements of the Centre Commitment
4. Propel future strength and greater resilience

The insights and recommendations from the subcommittees will help inform the College's future decisions.

Sincerely,

Ellen Goldey
Scenario Planning for the Next Academic Year

Among its nearly ubiquitous effects, the Covid-19 Pandemic has created the need to model a number of possible scenarios as we prepare for the 2020-2021 academic year. We are committed to the following guiding principles as we engage in this process:

1. Prioritize our people and positive community ethos
2. Protect the rich diversity of our academic programs and liberal arts mission
3. Preserve all elements of the Centre Commitment
4. Propel future strength and greater resilience

Local, regional, and national conditions are still uncertain, making it difficult to predict what challenges and safety concerns will be present in the weeks leading up to the fall term. Under these circumstances, the best way for us to prepare for the approaching academic year is to identify the following:

a) what the College should do in response to various COVID-19 scenarios,
b) the factors that would be considered in each scenario, and
c) the implications that these decisions would have on all operational areas of the College.

Centre remains committed to its mission as a residential liberal arts college, and the health and well-being of our community members remains a top priority. We are hopeful that the College can return to on-campus instruction in the fall, but it is important that we also model alternative modes of operation should they become necessary. To undertake this modeling thoughtfully and efficiently, a number of possible scenarios have been identified and committees are being formed to examine how the different areas of the college would operate under each scenario. Each committee will write a report that summarizes their findings. This approach will result in the most thorough rendering of each scenario and its campus-wide impact in the short and long term. The insights and recommendations from the subcommittees will help inform the difficult decisions to be made by President Roush in consultation with President-elect Moreland and the senior staff.

Possible Scenarios (with block calendar and social distancing whenever applicable):

I. Fall 2020

1. All Classes are On-Campus
2. Hybrid Classes (some students on campus, others online)
3. First Calendar Block Online, Second Block On-Campus
4. First Calendar Block On-Campus, Second Block Online
5. All Classes Online for Entire Fall Term

II. Beyond Fall 2020, If COVID-19 returns/remains

1. CentreTerm Online
2. Spring Classes Online
Each committee should address the following:

1. Outline your operational area response to each scenario.
2. Address the implications and challenges (financial, personnel, etc.) of each scenario (positive and negative) on your area.
3. How would each scenario affect the ability of your area to fulfil the Centre Commitment (if applicable)?

Working Groups (with chairs):

1. Academic Affairs: Ellen Goldey
2. Athletics: Brad Fields
3. Communications, Marketing, and Stewardship: Michael Strysick
4. Enrollment/Retention, Recruitment and Aid: Bob Nesmith
5. Finance and Budget: Brian Hutzley
6. Health and Safety: Kathy Jones
7. Outside Comparisons: Brian Cusato
8. Pay, Benefits, and Staffing: Kay Drake
9. Residential Life and Student Engagement: Randy Hays
10. Study Abroad: Lori Hartmann

Timeline:

First meeting of each subgroup to occur the week of May 4. Subsequent meetings as needed. Written summary from each group due no later than June 1.