July 24, 2020 - Faculty email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

“Maximum Flexibility” has become the new operative term in our planning for the fall. While we continue to look ahead, as we expect to offer students an opportunity to be on campus for our first block that begins on August 26, I believe that a “max-flex” approach respects the decisions of the individual members of our campus community, from our faculty and staff to our students and families.

At the same time, we are painfully aware that many of the factors impacting our ability to be on campus are beyond our control, and we continue to monitor closely and carefully what counsel is given by our many health partners and what officials with the Commonwealth of Kentucky advise. Another committee beyond our COVID-19 Crisis Management Task Force is now meeting to plan for other scenarios and display our dashboard of key health and safety indicators on our website. In case key health and safety factors do not allow us to open in person next month, we continue to develop all of our plans for providing you an excellent learning experience this fall.

To gain a sense of people’s current thinking about the fall, surveys went out earlier this week to both students and faculty, and similar efforts are being planned for our staff, though on a more direct, personal level, with more communication about this occurring next week. If you have not returned your completed survey, we are asking all students and faculty to do that now, before the deadline of next Monday at 12 noon.

Students and their families also participated in two Zoom forums this week that attracted approximately 500 participants, at which we were able to answer questions and concerns and share this max-flex approach. These conversations have proved invaluable, not only to communicate our planning efforts but also to receive helpful feedback. Nearly 200 questions were submitted in advance of the forums, and we worked to address what we could. Both sessions were recorded and are available for viewing:

**Zoom Forum for First-Year Students and Families, July 21**

**Zoom Forum for Returning Students and Families, July 22**

As we continue to add Healthy@Centre policy information to our COVID-19 Information Center, just today we also included a new FAQ section (available [HERE](#)). This includes an opportunity for you to request what new items we might add to our information center.

The Zoom sessions with faculty, staff, and administrators will continue. Our next Zoom call will allow students and their families to hear a number of our talented faculty discuss their fall
courses. The Zoom call will take place on Thursday, August 6, beginning at 7 p.m. (EST). Additional videos on the same topic are being produced. We will also continue virtual conversations in August with students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees.

In closing, I repeat what I said last week. Only by committing to the health and safety of one another, aware how our circles expand beyond the campus community, will we be successful in manifesting the values of care and compassion that are so essential to Centre College.

Sincerely,
Milton