

Subject: Fall 2020

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 5:18:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Woodward, John A.

To: All Faculty

CC: Wall, John J., Boese, Marc A., Neuhard, Ian P., Litt, Sheri B., Kooi, Jana

Colleagues,

I would like to give a summary of where we are now as we head into Fall 2020.

The Senate Ad Hoc Coronavirus Contingency Committee met weekly through May and June to work on recommendations to John Wall about the Fall semester. We pushed to move most of our courses online in order to reduce the number of people on campuses and thereby reduce the risk of infection. Our recommendations were accepted and embraced by John Wall's contingency planning committee.

The first step in making the transition was to poll the faculty about any classes they felt must be face-to-face in whole or part. We then asked deans to reach out to their faculty for further information with the idea that the opinion of the majority of the faculty in the discipline would be binding for all faculty in the discipline—a highly unusual situation and not one we would advocate for in all situations. The risks involved with the virus especially with potential campus closures due to infection forced our hand. You should have received an email with a form to fill out gathering general information. You should then have received an email from your dean or program manager asking for information.

Once the majority opinion was established, the courses that were able to be taught completely online were then converted to online courses. Any course that had a meeting time and day was converted to an online course but retained the meeting time and day. Emails sent to students call these courses “Live Online” courses. Any course that had to be taught partially face-to-face were converted to hybrid in some fashion. These courses are now called hybrid (not Live Online). Any courses that could not be taught online remained fully face-to-face.

(If you are in a discipline where the courses have to be taught face-to-face, please reach out to your dean or program manager as soon as possible with any concerns or questions about accessing campus and any restrictions related to your discipline and campus.)

The repeated communication to students (see a previous email from me or Jason Gibson with the exact language students are receiving) gives them directions for understanding their schedule: face-to-face has a meeting time, day, and place; hybrid has a meeting time, day, and place; live online has a meeting time and day but no place other than “online”; online has no meeting time, day, or place other than “online.”

*****NOTA BENE:** There is potential confusion, in that the schedule will at a glance make it seem as though “live online” courses are standard online courses. Hence the instruction in the email to students that a meeting time and day means it is a “live online” course and students should be prepared to meet online on those days and at that time. This is information that you should consider repeating in your syllabus and perhaps as an announcement or module in the Canvas course shell. The committee and Marc Boese are working on developing a repository for standard boilerplate language faculty can copy and paste into their syllabi if they wish—including information about accessing campuses.***

Please take the time in the coming days to check your schedules. The conversion to online was a mostly manual process and may have resulted in some mistakes. If you have any questions about your schedule, modality, expectations, online instruction, meeting times or methods, etc., please reach out to your dean or program manager and other colleagues in your discipline.

Best,
John

John Arrington Woodward, PhD
Faculty Senate President
Professor of Humanities and Film
C2326B Deerwood Center
904-997-2703