

2020 Team input opportunity

Best version of a two-semester model with fall start and limited residential capacity

June 1, 2020 8am Call

Assessing the options

Perhaps the most important factor for judging the relative appeal and success of each of the options is something we cannot know with any certainty. **That is...what will the future hold?**

- When will easy, rapid testing be available?
- When will effective therapeutics be widely available to mitigate the most serious health consequences?
- Will there be a second wave of infections in the fall?
- Will there be a second wave of infections in the winter and significant comorbidity with the seasonal flu?
- Will there be an effective vaccine widely available by spring?
- Will we need to limit the population on campus for the full academic year?

Given these uncertainties, it is **necessary to consider the options for fall in the context of a full year.**

Also critical to think about **how the various options may enable us to pivot** to more or fewer students, staff, and faculty on campus depending on whether conditions get better or worse.

Our role

Rigorously evaluate a range of options and describe their advantages and disadvantages relative to different scenarios for the future

What is the “best” version of a two-semester model with fall start and limited residential capacity?

- Mode of teaching?
- Calendar?
- Who is in residence when?

Mode of teaching

One possibility:

- **Plan for EVERYTHING being remote, assume all in-person elements are a bonus**
 - Conservatively position the curriculum
 - Addresses needs of students who will not be on campus (either because we do not invite them back or because of personal, visa or health situations)

What are your alternatives?

Calendar

One possibility:

- **End classes before Thanksgiving, no in-person IAP, second semester start in February**

- Avoids risks associated with travel and winter months
- Provides longer period for instructors to prepare for spring semester (with potential for more remote teaching)
- Could decide to make IAP in-person in mid-fall if conditions improve
- Second semester start could be later than February if conditions worsen

If we were to end classes before Thanksgiving how would you do it?

- Start up to 3 weeks early and/or compress semester by up to 3 weeks
- Preferred combination?

Who is in residence when?

Assume we can accommodate 60% of the UGs in fall and three quarters in spring.

One possibility:

- **Fall = juniors, seniors** + potentially some others who are in challenging learning environments
- **Spring = first-years, sophomores, seniors** + potentially others
 - Seniors have the least time left for downstream adjustments for required classes
 - Perhaps by spring first-years can have more typical social interactions for first experience on campus
 - If things improve, can invite everyone back in spring

What is your preferred alternative?

Q&A