

## Spring planning committee overview

September 28, 2020

### **Summary**

The spring planning committee will be responsible for making recommendations – to the cabinet and chancellor - for how the university should operate (remotely vs. in person, for a variety of important functions) in the winter and spring terms. This will include an analysis of the success of our fall operations, the experiences of other universities - including but not limited to our UMass peers, and robust scenario planning for the winter/spring. Importantly, part of the committee’s charge is to gather stakeholder and expert opinions from across the campus. *Note: It was already decided that winter coursework will be remote.*

### **Responsibilities**

The committee will study major aspects of the university’s operations – work, coursework, research, residence halls, testing strategy – to make recommendations on how the university should operate in the winter and spring semesters. Throughout its endeavors, the committee will consider student well-being, health and mental health and best ways to mitigate the pandemic’s impacts on students learning, faculty teaching, and staff wellness. Key tasks will include:

1. **Analyze lessons learned:** Research and analyze what we have learned and what other universities have learned since March and specifically during the fall semester so far.
  - What is the experience this fall in each of the major aspects of the university’s operations (see list below under “key topics for deliberation”)
  - What are other campuses, including what other campuses are doing to promote innovative faculty practices and student engagement – what are they learning
2. **Analyze market conditions:** Research and analyze the market conditions in which we are making decisions for the winter/spring.
  - General health environment in Dorchester and greater Boston
  - Testing availability and cost
  - Decisions that other universities are making
3. **Listen to stakeholders:** An important task of the committee is to gather input from community stakeholders. This would include general opportunities for listening to stakeholder groups, but also proactive conversations with experts on particular topics including but not limited to student engagement and learning, continuous improvement, and on-going technological innovation.
  - Hold listening sessions
  - Identify experts and gather input on certain topics (e.g. athletics & recreation, research, technology, testing, auxiliary services, etc.)
  - Need to consider intersection with partners
4. **Conduct scenario planning:** What scenarios are possible for the spring, in each area of operations.
  - 100% remote / status quo / more in person / 100% in person
  - Pros and cons of each, including impacts on safety, enrollment, finances, mental health, student satisfaction, etc.
  - Financial implications of each of the domains need to be considered, with analysis provided by A&F.

5. **Make recommendations.** The committee is not making decisions, but rather providing information, scenarios, and recommendations to the cabinet and chancellor.
- It is important to acknowledge that our campus will also be making decisions in collaboration with the UMass President's Office and Board of Trustees, and in consideration of guidance from local public health authorities.

**Key topics for deliberation:**

- Major campus activities
  1. Remote coursework and partially on campus coursework (scenarios to consider: same footprint, increased footprint, decreased footprint)
  2. Remote work and essential work on campus
  3. Residential living
  4. Student support services
  5. Athletics & recreation
  6. Research activity
  7. Auxiliary services
  8. Other student activities
- Supporting systems and processes
  1. Safety guidelines and protocols
  2. Communications strategies
  3. COVID Testing strategy
  4. Academic calendar (e.g. in the fall some campuses went remote after thanksgiving, some campuses started the fall semester early, etc.)

**Membership**

The committee membership will include:

- Garrett Smith, Deputy Chancellor (Chair)
- Emily McDermott, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Marie Bowen, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources
- Kathleen Kirleis, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
- Anne Riley, Chief of Staff
- Gail DiSabatino, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Megan Delage Sullivan, Vice Chancellor for Marketing & Engagement
- Joe Berger, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development
- Ray Lefebvre, Vice Chancellor of IT
- Mya Mangawang, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives
- Andrew Perumal, Associate Professor of Economics (CLA)
- James Soldner, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling (SGISD)
- Rob Pomales, Executive Director of University Health Services
- Justin Comeau, Manager of Emergency Planning & Business Continuity

**Meeting schedule and term of service**

- The committee will meet weekly, at a minimum, beginning the week of September 28, 2020
- Major recommendations will be made by early November 2020
- Frequency of meetings may change, as needed
- The committee may continue beyond the early November recommendations, as needed