

May 1, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As the spring semester draws to a close and we look toward fall, many questions remain. I hope that we will be back to traditional face-to-face classes. Still, we don't yet know if circumstances will allow that.

With that in mind, you may recall that earlier this month I shared that we will be putting together various groups to properly plan for potential scenarios and changes to how we do business.

Those planning groups will include:

- **Academic Quality and Course Implementation:** This team will focus on the continuity of the course experience. Key areas of focus will include technical needs to deliver distance education, the skill development necessary for faculty and identifying ideal modalities, especially for courses that are hard to deliver.
- **Retention and Academic Supports:** This team will build the key elements to maintain the momentum of our students. The focus is on building our retention efforts including academic advising, tutoring, troubleshooting and career education. Great strides have already been in this area during the past weeks as many of you have volunteered to assist Enrollment Management in helping to connect with students who have disengaged and/or have not registered for classes in the fall.
- **Experiential Learning:** This group will explore how internships, field experiences and community-based learning can be maintained in a virtual environment.
- **Student Engagement:** This team will focus on developing best practices and guidelines for units and student organizations to conduct virtual programming and promote campus engagement.
- **Student Support:** This team will focus on developing best practices and guidelines on how to best support students' emotional needs in an online environment and make sure that students are connected to appropriate physical and mental health resources.
- **Sustaining Our Brand:** This group will focus on the message that this is the same great Rock community despite the temporary disruption.

These groups will be comprised of various members of the University community, faculty and staff who have knowledge or expertise in each of the focus areas and members will be designated by their respective cabinet member. I have tasked cabinet members with launching these groups by mid-May.

As you've heard me say before, our priority as a university is ensuring that our students continue along the path to achieving educational excellence. I appreciate all that you have been doing to help our students succeed.

If you have thoughts or ideas that you'd like to share with any of the groups, or have interest in being a resource, please contact planninggroups@sru.edu.

Best,

Bill