

Week of September 20

Trustees -

As has been my custom, I write only briefly this morning out of respect for your need to focus on the volume of materials before you for tomorrow's regular Board meeting.

A short note on our COVID status: As of Friday, more than 84 percent of our fall in-person population are fully vaccinated, including nearly 97 percent of residential students and more than 84 percent of full-time faculty and staff. The positivity rate for our own COVID testing over the last 14 days hovers just below 1.5 percent, and we're managing -- again as of late Friday -- 65 known cases across the System with our isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing protocols.

We're extending our face covering requirements for all indoor activities through at least the end of October, and we're working on the logistics to require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for entry to all university events with 250 people or more.

Just as has been the case from the onset of the pandemic, we're making science-informed adjustments to our policies and practices as necessary to ensure as best we can that we can be safe together and not spread COVID in our broader communities.

There are significant items on our agenda tomorrow, from strategic planning, collective bargaining contract approvals and related compensation increases, the UMA presidential search, the UMF 4-to-3 credit hour transition, and the fit-out of the 300 Fore Street building in Portland for Maine Law, among other important topics and reports. It'll be a busy but productive day.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow for what we hope will be our last regular Board meeting via Zoom.

Regards,
Dan