

Subject: Updates

Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 10:41:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Tim Hynes

To: Tim Hynes

Dear Laker Faculty and Staff:

Especially in these times, I want to thank you again for all your efforts to ensure that our students complete their studies. While the spring semester will come to an end in the next few weeks, the work of learning continues because of you.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made this a time of social distancing. The distance is essential to help protect one another. At the same time, the physical social distance means that we continue to invent or improve ways to connect through online and remote learning. Learning is made possible because of your efforts for our students. We appreciate the on-going work you do on their behalf, and on behalf of other colleagues.

Over the past few weeks, you have received a flurry of messages addressing a number of changes in university operations. This note underlines a few of them.

Tuition Rates; Maymester and Summer term fees

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia continued current levels of tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year, and waived a number of student fees for the summer 2020 terms. During times like this, it is vital that institutions take steps to reinforce our on-going commitment to affordability for our students, especially for this summer. You can support students taking advantage of the opportunity this summer (and accelerating their path to degree completion) by encouraging them to register for summer online courses now.

The state budget environment remains unknown as I write, knowing that along with budgets of Georgia families, state budgets will likely be different than what they were a few months ago. We will be discussing this topic at greater length in the coming weeks.

Test scores and University Admissions

SAT and ACT test administrators recently announced cancellation of exam opportunities through May (at least). The Board of Regents have approved test optional admissions for summer and fall 2020, and we will continue the decision made three years ago to align ourselves with USG standards. The most important effect of this change will be the expansion of our university bridge program to the fall term. Those efforts incorporate significant student support, and accelerated residential academic support to academically at risk students. There will be continued support of the work of the Departments of Mathematics and English, who will continue to outline placement criteria and advance success already established by these departments for new students.

#ClaytonStatecares, engaging students in social media

We've begun a social media campaign called #ClaytonStateCares. One example of its current existence involves a site where students can identify and seek academic and social support in their current circumstances-- <https://www.clayton.edu/virtual-student-support-services> Please share the hashtag #ClaytonStateCares with students to help advance updates for social media channels like Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

I am honored to be a part of a university community pulling together during these times. These effort aim support ourselves and our students and their paths toward degrees, a milestone in their continued paths of success. Social distancing cannot break the ties of our shared commitments to learning, and our efforts to make dreams real for our students and the communities we serve.

Stay safe and stay well.

Best,

Tim

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