

**Subject:** Project groups to develop strategies for fall semester, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 12:41:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Tim Hynes  
**To:** Tim Hynes

Dear Laker community:

This semester is close to its end—an end not quite as expected, but hopefully an end that will see success for each of you. As the summer months near, we know that all of you are eager to know what normal operations will look like in the fall. Colleges and universities across the nation are beginning to take steps to determine how to reopen their campuses, and we are currently doing the same.

All University System of Georgia institutions have been tasked to develop contingency plans to address how students, faculty and staff can safely return to their campuses. while continuing to exercise social distancing and other health measures. We understand that the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic are fluid, and we continue to receive counsel from state public health officials as we make operational decisions. Do know that the health and safety of our community will continue to be our greatest priority.

We have established 12 cross-functional task force groups to evaluate options, and to begin plans for a smooth transition back to campus for the fall semester. Representatives from across campus will address interrelated areas impacting all members of our internal and external communities. Together, they will develop the framework for a comprehensive strategy to restore the university to back to full operations, and help guide learning under ever-changing conditions. We will be sharing information about this work in coming days and weeks.

I appreciate the efforts that students, faculty and staff are making to continue online instruction and university operations through the summer. I'm also excited about the interest of prospective students who are applying to join our Laker family in hopes of securing a spot in the Class of 2024.

While the days and weeks ahead seem uncertain, I know the university is at its strongest when we pull together; we use our diversity of perspectives; we support each other; and we persevere in the pursuit of learning success.

Stay safe and be well.

Tim

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