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**Subject:** Updated guidance for Fall 2021  
**Date:** Friday, February 26, 2021 4:26:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [Looking Ahead to Fall 2021 2-26-21.pdf](#)

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All,

Thank you for sharing your questions with us yesterday about the fall return plan. Attached you will find an updated “Looking Ahead to Fall 2021” guidance document. Based on your feedback, we have attempted to clarify some of the information about scheduling deadlines (see additions with *red* font). **Please share this guidance document with your faculty.** You will also be able to find a copy of this updated guidance document as well as a copy of this email on the AA website at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/announcements/temp-policies.html>.

As we noted in the meeting yesterday, we are planning for a fall semester that will look more like (although not exactly like) pre-pandemic semesters, with a greater number of face-to-face experiences – both in and out of the classroom. This plan has been made possible because of the commitment and determination of our faculty, staff, students and administrators to do what is needed to keep our university community as safe as possible.

As noted in the fall guidance document, the final edits to the fall schedule are due **next Friday, March 5**. This deadline is necessary in order for the schedule to be finalized and published in time for students to meet with their advisors this semester to plan for the fall. We know there is still considerable uncertainty about the pandemic, including availability and access to the COVID-19 vaccine. We are optimistic that our UW community will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine by the start of the fall semester. It was this optimism that led to the decision to plan for a fall schedule with more opportunities for students to have face-to-face experiences, including in-person classes.

We were also realistic in our planning. **The Provost and her executive team want you to know that the Office of Academic Affairs has your back.** We have strived to give you and your faculty as much flexibility in scheduling classes as we can. We are also committed to providing students with timely information that allows for their fall planning. We know that as long as the pandemic is with us, we have to be ready to adjust our direction – and that brings with it continued uncertainties. We don’t want these uncertainties to prevent you and your faculty from planning for in-person classes now. That is why we built in the 2-week window in July for faculty to be able to reassess their face-to-face delivery method if the conditions, including vaccine uptake, necessitate continued social distancing. Be assured, if you and your faculty submit your fall schedule next week to include face-to-face classes, and a decision in July is made to shift back to socially distanced classrooms, the decision to adjust delivery mode for those classes will be yours.

One final note – in response to the discussion about providing additional face masks to faculty, we have begun exploring what options are available to us. We will keep you informed as we know more.

Here's to a restful weekend.

Sincerely,

**Tami Benham Deal, PED**

Vice Provost

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