

Date

Fall Planning Feedback

6/5 After going through the transition last semester to online, I think the biggest problem not only I noticed Was that many professors took the online teaching to their advantage almost and treated the students as if the only class work they had to complete was for their one class when in reality majority of students were enrolled in 5 or more. Now I understand It was important to give as much information and teachings as possible online to teach us students the information, it was very hard to keep up when a class took over leaving students behind in other classes. I think It is important that they know just because it is online students are still doing 4 other classes and it is not fair to assume they have all the time to complete that much coursework for one class while also completing it for the others. I am Saying this Incase classes become majority online. If students succeeding is the goal then professors need to not set them up for failure this time around.

As a student I am very excited to return to campus this fall. I have two worries though. The first one would be reduced density in dorm halls kicking me out of my dorm room that I already picked back in April.

6/5 My second concern is much more important. As a student employee who works in the dining halls I am concerned that by going online order and carry out only there would not be enough hours to work in the dining halls and I wouldn't be able to afford my bills. If this happened I would be unable to return to campus for the upcoming year as I wouldn't be able to pay my bills.

6/5 I don't really have feedback, but more a question. A lot of the updates came from the perspective of students living on campus. What will it look like for commuter students? I feel they are more of a "threat" health wise than a student living on campus, so I wondered how that will be handled.

6/5 I have major concerns about the feasibility of social distancing on campus. While I see in the drafts things like "maintain 6ft distance" in buildings like Baker, there doesn't seem to be any consideration for the larger flow of traffic between buildings as people move from class to class. Typically you will have 10+ people within a single square yard of you as you walk from building to building, as everyone has to get to classes or residence/dining halls; let alone within 6ft of you. So long as there's no change to the number of students on campus and classes to be attended, I don't see how this will change. As a student with a history of respiratory illnesses, I would not feel safe having to walk around on campus, no matter what precautions are being taken within individual buildings and rooms. In order to be able to continue attending classes in the Fall, I need to see a concrete solution that the University is going to take responsibility for - just asking students and staff to stay 6 feet away from each other while walking places isn't going to happen, and I think we all know this. I was hoping to graduate this coming year but given that I'm at risk, I can't justify risking my health and possibly life; I want to attend in the Fall but I worry that without stronger measures than I see in the drafts that I (and I'm sure others in my situation or similar ones) will not be able to attend safely and will therefore have to drop out until the pandemic has passed.

6/5 A number of other universities have gone to a model where the university either completes all courses by Thanksgiving or switches to on-line only delivery after Thanksgiving to prevent students from returning to campus after being back home in potentially infected areas.

6/5 I like the idea of the last day of in-person instruction being November 20th, that is what is most convenient for students and faculty.

6/5 I think it would be beneficial to have some classes in-person and some classes online. That would reduce the number of students in classrooms and on campus, as well as allow options for students who don't feel safe returning to campus. For example, I teach two classes and I could convert one of those classes to online and make the other an in-person class. I also think it would be wise to not have the students come back to campus after Thanksgiving as other universities have already decided to do. We could have the last several weeks be online.

I appreciate the hard work and consideration to detail that is taking place among all the planning committees regarding the return to campus following the stay-at-home orders for COVID-19. I am contacting you today because I have a recommendation. Please consider developing a mechanism by which students, faculty, and staff can anonymously report violations of CDC guidelines that they may observe, or any other concerns they might have when the university re-opens. I think it would be very important for university students and personnel to feel as if they have somewhere to turn if they observe something that could put them or others at risk of infection, or if they could simply report a situation that makes them feel uneasy. Such a mechanism should permit the reporter to remain anonymous if they prefer. Then, there should be a group responsible for investigating these reports in a timely manner to help reinforce the need to follow CDC guidelines for everyone's safety.

As an instructor, I am concerned about social distancing in cramped classrooms. It is simply not possible for 10 or even 20 students (a full class) to maintain this distance in these classrooms. There is not adequate space on campus for all classes to be scheduled in rooms large enough to maintain safe distance. Further, students may not choose to wear masks on campus or in classrooms if this is not mandated by the university. I hope the university will do the right thing and seriously consider moving most courses to remote learning in order to protect the health and safety of students and staff even if this means fewer enrollments.

I think it's really important that the university consider ending classes at Thanksgiving break. Internet access at home is difficult for many of us and taking finals online is less-than optimal. If the university decides to follow Ohio State's lead and move everything after Thanksgiving to an online format, I think it would be fair for the university to condense the semester by one week and hold online finals for the two weeks after Thanksgiving (instead of a week of instruction followed by exams), allowing students more time to access their exams and take exams at times that work for them. I was really disappointed by my professors' lack of effort this spring and hope that the university holds them more accountable if we go virtual/hybrid this fall.

Even more than ordering online and carry out from the dining halls, some extended dining hall hours would be appreciated, at least for dinner! That way people are able to go earlier/later, and there can be less people in the hall at a time. One class I had is the full length of dining hall hours for dinner, which is not awesome, seeing as my hall doesn't have access to a kitchen.

I think increased access to kitchens would be nice. We're in Wray, and if we had access to one of the kitchens on new south, that would make a big difference. We'd be willing to cook at least twice a week, and that would eliminate on people in the dining halls.

(A) Please remember that regional campuses have a different demographic profile from one another and main campus. At Chillicothe, many of our students work (for pay) in healthcare settings such as nursing homes and other healthcare facilities. Thus they are high risk both for getting COVID19 and transmitting it to vulnerable people.

(B) In keeping with that, I hope that environmental risk will be assessed and mitigated and planned on a room by room and building by building basis. Each building has different ventilation characteristics and different opportunities for risk mitigation.

(C) I hope you will recognize diversity among students, faculty, and staff in their risk, their tolerance for risk, their preference for in-person content delivery, and their level of anxiety about the return.

(D) There will be massive problems with anxiety as people return to campus in the fall, especially if cases begin to increase with fall weather. We need plans to deal with the possibility of what used to be called "Mass Hysteria" as well as accurate perceptions of real danger. Counseling resources will need to be increased dramatically.

(E) Decision making tends to be more rational when frameworks of risk evaluation are used. Will someone specify, in advance, the specific statistics to be examined and the specific cut points that could be used to return to fully online course delivery or fully face to face delivery? Will the metrics be displayed daily on the University website along with an explanation for why each specific health related decision, including decisions to continue business as usual, was taken?

(F) Given the extreme importance of ventilation, will all classrooms with windows be fitted so that the windows can be opened? At Chillicothe there are apparently windows that don't.

(G) Will HEPA filtration of a very high quality be ensured in all campus buildings at all times with frequent changes?

6/5 (H) Given the risk of transmission in public toilets, what is being done to deal with the aerosols that occur when infected (and possibly asymptomatic) individuals use the toilet?

(I) Will safe sex education be implemented to help reduce transmission during intimate contact on campus?

(J) Could tents be set up in places where it is possible, at least during warmer weather, so that some classes could be held in large semi-permanent tents?

6/5 I recommend launching online courses in the fall semester. Although we are eager to start school normally, I think that the safety of students should be given top priority.

6/5 Reporting suggest a surge in covid-19 cases expected later in the fall. Some schools are considering starting the Semester early and ending by Thanksgiving. Spring semester would start at its regular time. Is OHIO considering this option?

6/5 I firmly believe the students will be safe to return to campus for residential living and in person classes. Most will have already been exposed to COVID by August, plus the age group of most students make them at a very low risk for any symptoms, much less serious symptoms.

6/5 Thank you for your hard work as you plan for fall. I am curious as to why mental health and wellness is not a component of the planning and that there is not any members (that I could see) of CPS involved on special committees. Coming to work or school under such extraordinary circumstances can catalyze poor mental health and/or poor coping mechanisms. I would feel much more confident about the return plan if all aspects if all eight dimensions of wellness were addressed: social, environmental, physical, emotional, spiritual, occupational, intellectual, and financial.

6/5 Your failure to have student on these teams is inexcusable. Classes, internships, etc. are THEIR experiences, not yours. To plan without feed back regarding what worked in the spring and what did not from a student perspective is lazy and inexcusable. Students have not been asked how classes went in the spring. They have not asked how their internships have been affected. Professors are sitting around tables and assuming they know the student perspective, but they don't. Shame.

If instruction in the fall is as anemic as it was at the end of spring, I would like a substantial discount on tuition. Students did not enroll for an online college experience. They chose a 4-year, in class, college.

One should feel the incredible value in a professor instructing and interacting with the group. Pushing out videos produced by other people and having zero interaction with the students is not college level instruction. Having students turn in work and providing no feedback other than a letter grade is not college level instruction.

6/5 Students could buy books and google videos - teach themselves for free. They have just done it, and continue to do it this summer. There is minimal value added by the professors at this point. The competitive advantage a university has is regular contact by students with experts in a field. If the university's experts (professors and group advisors) cannot come up with a proactive plan to interact with their classes & instruct on a regular basis, despite all of the resources available, then refund tuition.

You don't realize that you're showing the lack of value in what you have for centuries offered by simply making the decision to no longer offer it.

Leadership at OU has failed its current student body.

6/5 Appreciate all the thought and work going into this. I am very comfortable sending my child back to campus in the fall.

6/5 Online courses should remain the norm for classes that are particularly based in speaking or hands-on interaction. Language courses, given their oral format, would work best as online classes.

6/6 1) if performing arts are included in the "research and creative" guidance, it seems there is not real consideration for those students, and "limiting" undergrad participation would mean those students (music, theater, etc.) would not get even the basic experience and education expected. Face coverings and social distancing are not as realistic in performing arts and separate and creative solutions are needed to provide those students a safe way without greatly diminishing their educational opportunities or value.
2) if take out meals will be implemented, where will hundreds/thousands of students eat these meals between classes, especially since it's not realistic that students will have time to stand in line, carry meals back to dorms and eat, and make it to classes on time. I envision students will be forced to eat in classrooms and other campus buildings, all over common areas, etc. Students will be at risk of unhealthy choices such as being forced to skip meals, wolfing food down due to lack of adequate time and space, and limited menu choices. This also greatly impacts the cost value of the meal plans. A different solution for students to eat safely in dining halls should be considered.

6/6 So you're submitting final recommendations just 10 days after asking for input here. Asking for input at this point is just checking the box marked "input solicited." How likely is it that any information shared by constituents through this form will actually be discussed and included in the proposal when it is wrapped up on the 15th? Minimal. We are months into this and you should have been asking for input all along.

6/6 Why did the university close a dining hall and reduce dorm capacity when it had a fairly good idea that distancing was going to be important for the fall? Why is the dining hall that is actually set up for carry out closed at a time when the university is shifting toward more carry out? Why did the university release custodial staff at a time when it was clear that extra cleaning would need to occur in the fall? Why did food services in the spring announce that dining was going to change and students would not be able to serve themselves in an effort to minimize contagion, and yet that's exactly what they continued to do because the dining hall workers just stand around? Why were professors allowed to decide BEFORE fall scheduling & before university decisions which of their classes would be online months later due to COVID19? There's a serious messaging problem at OU. What you say and what you do are disconnected. And people notice.

6/6 I would like to know how the school is justifying not fighting back against our government for the actions they took to shut down Ohio causing severe financial hardship to colleges, individuals and many businesses, in light of the additional data showing that COVID-19 has a less than .005% death rate? All models that were presented to Ohioans have since been proven to be extremely exaggerated. When will the colleges of Ohio band together to question DeWine and Acton and make them accountable for their actions? The flu still has a 3% death rate vs the less than .005% rate of COVID-19. We have never taken the measures we've been asked to take for COVID for any Flu season. Life can return to normal and it should, immediately. Stand up for the your students and faculty and fight DeWine and Acton and their ridiculous policies that are bankrupting our state.

6/6 Ohio University should re-open with no restrictions and go back to normal. None of the students are in the at risk age, and few have the co-morbidity that is of concern with Covid 19. Herd immunity, normalcy, and progress should be the plan. RE-OPEN!

6/6 One thing that I noticed was a lack of planning for Fall Commencement. I understand that bringing us back is first priority but especially on regional campuses, some students are there longer than 4-5 years. Commencement is a moment to celebrate our work with those who have gotten us to that day. I think that for the regional campuses, a drive up ceremony should be held. Each student could be allowed 1-2 cars and follow social distancing guidelines. The graduate would exit their car, go up to a designated area and have their name read aloud and be able to have their program coordinator standing there as well.

6/6 How about scheduling some sort of commencement event for the class of 2020???

6/6 If the students are not allowed to dorm, attend face to face teaching in a traditional classroom environment and engage in social activities my two current students will not be returning to Ohio Universities. This virus should be treated for what it is, a virus, we will have to use our own freedom and judgement to protect ourselves only. If you were asthmatic and the news states the pollen and mold indexes are high that day, you stay indoors, that is your choice. Our society needs to treat this in a similar way. If the cases are peaking we can choose to stay home. This is America and we deserve the right to make our own choices.

6/7 I don't think it's a good idea to do in-person classes so soon, especially with the protests happening. A second wave is very very likely and if you're like me (a media student!) then you have no choice but to interact with the equipment in the computer lab that all the other media kids also use. Seems like a really good way to spread things by keyboard and mouse even if you're careful. I think Fall 2020 should be online.

6/7 Sophomores should not be required to live on campus. Students will likely be safer in private housing settings

6/7 As a parent of an incoming Freshman I would like to encourage OU to strongly consider the student experience when reopening in the Fall. If you look at the data, there are very few cases of COVID-19 among the college student age group (and state wide-if you really look at the data). It is extremely important for college students (and students of all ages) to have social interaction and a positive experience socially- especially for Freshman (you want them to return for the rest of their college career right?). I would ask that you please do not remove furniture (arrange furniture in a way that students can still congregate in a safe way- spread it out more, clean/spray with disinfectant, etc but please do not remove completely), please do not take away dining halls (maybe limit capacity but do not go strictly to carry out--we can not eat in public restaurants why wouldn't students be allowed to eat in a dining hall), please do not implement strict social distancing rules limiting social interactions. Let's be honest.....these college students HAVE NOT been social distancing this entire time anyway.

In regards to the use of masks, Dr. Tony Fauci said himself he wears a mask as a "symbol". Please allow these students to have the college experience that they so want and deserve.

Please keep classes face to face. As an educator myself, students get so much more when classes are held face to face.

My daughter is so excited to be a Bobcat this Fall. Please give her the experience that she is so looking forward to (and we are paying for) social activities, making friends and quality education.

6/7 As a faculty member and parent of a potential student, I do not feel safe returning to campus. Also, as the parent of a potential student, I would not send my student to campus knowing that the university does not value my child's health and life enough to keep him safe. COVID infection has not been contained in the USA, and returning to campus almost certainly means an infection outbreak. Until we have a vaccine available or the pandemic outbreak is truly decreased, the university should not bring students or faculty back to campus. For those students who need to be on campus for training such as med students, PT students, lab sciences students, bring them back in small groups, with clear guidelines that include testing, wearing masks, and physical distancing. Make sure to protect vulnerable faculty and students such as over age 60 and those with health problems. As a parent, you would better market the university as a safe and caring institution if you demonstrate that you care about the health and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and the community members. We owe it to the people of the region to protect them also. Please do not permit dorm, dining, and campus fees to be driving the opening of campus. My child is worth more than that.

6/8 I will be the instructor of two classes next semester. I live with my mother, who is obese, has diabetes, has asthma, and is over the age of sixty. She is an extremely high risk individual for catching and suffering from this virus. I am her primary caretaker and cannot simply move out or socially distance myself from her. I am extremely worried about passing a very terrible respiratory illness to her which she may not survive. I worry that no amount of careful planning can entirely remove this risk if I teach in-person in the fall. (continued)

6/8

My question is: Will I have an option to turn my in-person classes into online-only classes for the sake of eliminating this risk to mother? Otherwise, I don't see how I have any option other than to forego teaching this semester, and then I assume lose my stipend and position as a graduate student. My responsibility to the life and health of my mother outweighs all other responsibilities.

Hopefully you consider this point of view seriously, even if not "politically correct." Please read this entire comment before forming an opinion. School should: Re-open. In Full. No restrictions. Gov. DeWine and Dr. Acton have stated (and this is on the Ohio.gov website) that it is now known there were active cases of COVID-19 in Ohio as far back as January 2020. Because the lockdown actions did not even start until mid-March, these cases existed and spread UNMITIGATED in January/February/part of March. With the r-naught factor of (per DeWine/Acton) of at least 2.5 to 3, there were at least several hundred thousand people with the virus before we ever knew it was here. Dr. Acton even said, at one of the first press conferences, that there were 100,000 to 150,000 people who probably had it in Ohio at that time. Even now, approximately 80% of all deaths in the entire State of Ohio from this have been in nursing homes. College age students are largely not affected. Only about 400 people outside of nursing homes have died in Ohio. Per CDC and Ohio Health stats, looking at ALL causes of death in January through April 2018, there were MORE deaths from all causes in Ohio than in January through April 2020. As to colleges, and OU specifically, students need to be back on campus, and IN classrooms. If OU residential students wanted on-line/distance learning, they would have enrolled in community colleges and saved a ton of money. Much of the reason students pay for residential campus tuition is for the experience, as much as the classes. My daughter has already said if she is forced into online classes, she will look at other options for next year. From my point of view, I don't intend on paying in-person tuition rates for online classes. I also don't think we should pay full meal plan prices for "boxed lunches." From a realistic standpoint, do you honestly expect all these students to stay 6 feet away from each other at all times?

6/8

It makes no sense to carve out exceptions, for example, in saying students can live together in dorms, but they can't eat together in dining halls and sit together in classes. Are you going to hold students hostage over weekends to keep them from going home or to visit friends at other schools? Are you going to keep them from holding jobs off campus where they might contact outsiders in Athens or elsewhere? Anything other than a full reopening is not for ACTUAL health reasons... it is for "feel good" measures. This is true for masks, as well. There are health risks associated with full-time mask wearing and inhaling your own "exhaust" on an ongoing basis. Even if they do offer some protection, people don't wear them correctly, constantly handle them and don't clean them. Colleges don't close for the flu. They don't close for tuberculosis, which is all over the world and much more contagious than COVID-19. IF there are to be any restrictions, then they should be (1) setting up a "guard" at the front desk of each dorm with temperature checks before entering, with those sick reporting to student health center, and (2) contact tracing based upon dorm/class schedule/activities. This should be sufficient. Bottom line, this virus did not warrant lockdowns/restrictions UNTIL we knew it was here. It was in Ohio for at least two months, unmitigated, INCLUDING during 2nd semester at OU. Hospitals were not overrun. People were not dropping dead in the streets. They were not then. They are not now. Even in closing in-person classes in March, the stated purpose was to "flatten the curve" NOT to ensure no one got sick. The curve has been flattened. Most students have ONE chance to have their college experience. They should not be denied that opportunity because of an illness that largely does not affect them. The students want to be back in full. The school can't financially afford them not to be. Please consider the actual DATA and FACTS, not the worst-case, fear-based talk from Columbus. Re-Open. In Full. No Restrictions.

6/8

While I understand they there will be social distancing guidelines, I feel if students return to campus fees should be reduced if online instructions are required. It is not right if students return and on campus fees are charged while taking courses online.

6/9

Please communicate about how the sorority houses plan to handle housing in the fall. There has been no communication on this matter with regard to shared rooms, bathrooms, congregating at the house and communal dining.

I recognize that an enormous amount of work and thought is going into this planning. For the moment I want to address the effort to "educate students on their civic responsibility." I do not believe there is one bit of planning that can effectively impact student (or faculty or staff) behavior once someone passes through the college gate. I encourage everyone on this committee to take five minutes on a weekend morning and watch the 20+ students congregate around the Bagel Street window. They block the sidewalk, they stand cheek by jowl, they do not wear masks -- they just do not care. This kind of behavior is going to completely undermine any efforts to manage public health on campus. Add to this that I have colleagues who I know do not believe *they* are at risk, and so they do not wear masks -- it needs to be impressed on the wider community that these efforts are not meant to keep one from getting sick - but from getting others sick. Maybe a super-spreader campaign would be a good idea? You don't want to be the next Typhoid Mary, do you? Something like that.

6/10 It would be impossible to maintain social distancing on campus. In terms of risk, college campus are at a higher peak than any other facility. I would not feel safe returning to a campus while having a risk of contracting and spreading a deadly disease. I do feel that officials at the university will put money before safety so I expect to have classes on campus. Even with a 1% chance of risking a student's life, this option should not be taken.

6/10 I am a parent of a junior there. My daughter is scheduled to live in a dorm room with 3 others, however, is reticent to do so. I understand the guidelines established by ACUHO and ACHA and it is impossible to maintain social distancing within a dorm setting there on campus. We do not want to pay good money for her to stay there only to have on-line programming and/or to be sent home for same. I know OU is having financial difficulty, but so are we. Two out of the four of us, including, my daughter, lost jobs due to COVID-19. We are considering having my daughter commute to school so as to avoid the dorm situation. We would like to request that you

- a.) offer all courses via on-line and classroom instruction;
- b.) broaden your commuter student range;
- c.) reduce on-line tuition costs to match that of your regional campuses;
- d.) require masks;
- e.) require social distancing; and,
- f.) give students/parents enough time to make some decisions before Fall semester.