

Dear colleagues:

As we finish the fourth week of fall semester, I wanted to provide brief updates on the following topics:

- 1) Curriculum Globalization Committee call for self-nominations
- 2) Online teaching request process
- 3) COVID absence policy and vaccines
- 4) OII instructional support
- 5) Reminder of Bobcats Helping Bobcats faculty event on September 22, 3 to 5 p.m.

#### Curriculum Globalization Committee

As recommended by the International Opportunities Think Tank, we are creating a Curriculum Globalization Committee (CGC) in collaboration with the University International Council. This group of seven to nine members will work to develop global curricular opportunities, including possibilities like foreign-language Arches or micro-credentials; place-based pedagogy; community engagement and experiential learning; and virtual international experiences. We anticipate this group will first focus on defining and developing outcomes for courses that have a global component. Interested faculty should complete the form at [https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eXM0eWpiQ32uTie](https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eXM0eWpiQ32uTie).

#### Online teaching request process

If you or a member of your household is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and have a condition that makes the vaccine inadvisable or less effective, you may complete a request for online teaching for spring 2022. The form is available at [https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_87h0ls2LzAX98Eu](https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_87h0ls2LzAX98Eu) and must be submitted by October 1. Dr. Kenneth Johnson will review the requests. Individuals with disabilities who require accommodation may make requests directly to the [Office for University Accessibility](#). **Please note:** If you submitted a request for fall 2021 that was granted, you do not need to reapply. You will receive email communication this week about whether or not your exemption that allowed you to teach online this term has been extended for spring 2021.

#### COVID absence policy and vaccines

Thank you for your flexibility as we start the semester – I've heard good things from students about faculty who have supported them while they are affected by COVID-19. It's so important to the health of our entire community that we do not incentivize coming to class ill, and that we make sure students are getting tested as soon as possible if they have symptoms. I know so many of you are reinforcing this information with your students. As a reminder, the [COVID-19 attendance policy](#) that was recommended by the faculty-led Academic Policy and Process group in spring 2020 remains in effect. The COVID-19 attendance policy treats COVID-related illness, quarantine, isolation, or remain-in-room orders as a university legitimate absence. *This includes any side effects from receiving the vaccination.* For as long as it is necessary to continue quarantine, isolation, and remain-in-room policies, the COVID-19 attendance policy will remain in effect, so faculty should plan—at this point—for the policy to be in effect through fall 2021. We hope that as increasing vaccination rates protect more and more people in our campus communities, the absence policy will not be necessary in future semesters.

#### OII instructional support

The Office of Instructional Innovation (OII) is hosting four workshop series for faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants this semester: Inclusive Pedagogy, Student Well-being, Strategies for Learning Assessment, and Effective Online & Hybrid Teaching. Full session descriptions and presenters can be

found at [Programs and Upcoming Events](#), and those interested may register for sessions [here](#). Unless otherwise noted, each session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and held from noon to 1 p.m.

#### Bobcats Helping Bobcats faculty event

The Bobcats Helping Bobcats Faculty Appreciation Social will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the 1804 Room on the fifth floor of the Baker University Center. Bobcats Helping Bobcats supports students who have emergencies or basic needs that are not being met, including Cats' Cupboard, Meal Bank, Cap & Gown Loan Program, Emergency Microgrants, and Housing Help. The featured program for the September Faculty event is the Cats' Cupboard, the food pantry in Baker. Attendees are encouraged (but not required) to bring a donation to the Cats' Cupboard Food Pantry. Donations can be in the form of a food or personal care item or a small (\$1) monetary donation. This event is supported by the President, Provost, and the Dean of Students, and I hope you'll have a chance to join me to meet with your fellow faculty and get to know more about an important program for our students.

Finally, more updates will be coming soon from the Academic Planning and Strategy work that took place over the summer. Based on the recommendations from the spring semester, one summer group looked at horizontal structures and another continued the work on quantitative and qualitative data related to academic programs. I have received the draft report from the horizontal structures group and have met with the group co-chairs to discuss it; their report will be posted early next week on the [academic planning web site](#). The data group should have their work completed by the end of September, and we'll share their work then as well.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Sayrs, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and Provost