

Provost's Update From Today's Board of Visitor's Meeting

Office of the Provost

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you and yours are doing well. I am writing with updates from the Board of Visitors meeting. The JMU BoV met, in person and online, on September 18, 2020. The full board meeting was held, not in the Board of Visitors room, but in the Festival Ballroom so that we could maintain the appropriate physical distance. Some of the speakers' voices were muffled due to masks we were all wearing, but I appreciated the opportunity to share with the board what is happening in Academic Affairs. The BoV heard a report that the university plans to resume in-person learning on Oct. 5. President Alger shared information on increased testing capabilities and isolation/quarantine capacity. The university will provide further details on these and other operational changes on or before Sept. 25.

The university announced the following decisions:

- Fall break, originally slated for Oct. 22-23, will be cancelled in an attempt to reduce student travel. The two break days will be added to the end of the semester.
- After Thanksgiving break, all courses will move online for the remainder of the semester.
- All exams will be online, and exams will begin two days earlier than originally scheduled.
- When classes resume in person on October 5, in-person class meetings will be limited to 50 students or fewer when class returns to in-person delivery. To be clear, this means that no class meeting will have more than 50 students in a single room. A class may maintain a higher enrollment if there are detailed plans to prevent 50+ students from gathering in person at once. Detailed information on scheduling changes will be sent to academic unit heads early next week.

In the interest of getting this information to you as quickly as possible, I'll send additional information on the rationale and context for these decisions soon.

Please be on the lookout for details on a virtual Provost Town Hall next week. At that time I, along with the vice provosts and other members of academic affairs leadership, will share any additional updates and answer your questions.

Sincerely,
Heather

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