

From: [Gribbons, Barry C](#)

Subject: Important Update on Fall Schedule

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:10:14 PM

Dear Monarchs,

I have another update for you regarding plans for the Fall semester. As you all have read, the Chancellor sent out a note a couple of weeks ago that we should plan to be in the Yellow Tier for the Fall semester, which allows for classes to continue at 50 percent capacity. More recently, the Governor indicated that he plans to [fully reopen the state on June 15](#) and end the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The California Department of public health further [states](#), "Schools and institutions of higher education should conduct full-time, in person instruction, in compliance with Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standards and public health guidelines." While I don't believe that this means the pandemic is over and we will still need to encourage vaccination, mask wearing, maintaining physical distancing, etc., this shift is promising and reflects the dramatically falling number of new cases, drop in COVID hospitalizations, and increase in vaccinations.

In terms of planning for the Fall semester including in-person activity, first and foremost we must ensure that we maintain a safe environment and are in compliance with all health orders and Cal-OSHA requirements. Here is a list of some preventative and maintenance measures that will be in place or are already completed:

- All HVAC systems will have MERV 13 or better filters. Some have UV lights and we are investigating whether there will be a benefit of adding UV lights to the other HVAC systems.
- Signage will be posted throughout campus and at every building entrance clearly indicating requirements (mask wearing, symptom checks, physical distancing, hand washing, etc.).
- Sanitizing wipes and automated sanitization dispensers will be provided in every building, classroom, and lab.
- 27 electrostatic sprayers (e.g. Clorox 360 machines) are being purchased for buildings, in addition to 5 backpack sprayers and 5 handheld sprayers.
- Additional staff are being hired to do sanitization, including adding a B-shift.
- PPE, including face masks, are available. Additional face shields are being purchased for any faculty or staff member wanting one.
- We are identifying additional spaces needing Plexiglass, such as service counters, and stanchions to maintain physical distancing.

In addition, we are looking to hire a third party with expertise in Cal/OSHA and COVID-19 safety requirements to continue to evaluate our plans and spaces and we will continue to conduct contact tracing, quarantine and isolation per health orders and Cal/OSHA requirements. Ensuring that our work environments are safe is critical and we are committed to this.

In terms of plans for the Fall semester, I know that all departments have been working hard on in-person and online class schedules. Generally speaking, in-person classes will have to be offered at 50 percent capacity. While this creates a lower efficiency, which has been avoided for many years, we will be able to offer two class sections at 50 percent capacity since HEERF resources will be able to cover the additional costs. Many people have expressed interest in receiving specific direction on classes being offered in person and online. To that end and to meet student demand, the Fall semester class schedule will need to include 50 percent of our seats on-campus and 50 percent online for each discipline with some caveats. Some of our departments already scheduled a high number of classes in-person and may be at 50 percent or higher. If a department has a high proportion of hard-to-convert classes and wants

to offer more than 50 percent of their classes in-person, that would make perfect sense to me. Other departments may be constrained by physical space, such as specialty labs, and cannot provide half of the seats in-person due to this constraint, especially with additional “passing period” time to allow for cleaning and sanitization. In these instances, the department chair should work with their dean to further evaluate the constraints and options.

I recognize that this will mean that we will need to hire additional adjunct faculty members to staff the sections we are adding. I’m glad that we will be able to do so and that we will be able to provide more job opportunities with the HEERF funding. Additionally, this will provide an excellent opportunity to try out small class sizes at scale to assess the impact on student learning. We may not be presented with a similar opportunity to offer small classes at this scale in our careers and I am thankful for the resources provided by the Federal Government to enable us to meet local student demand within the current health orders.

I know that this campus update will likely lead to many additional questions. To help address these questions, we are scheduling a special campus update via Zoom tomorrow, Wednesday April 14th at 12:30. I look forward to seeing you then!

Highest regards,

Barry Gribbons
President
Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401
818-947-2321
Email: gribbobc@lavc.edu

Sent to LAVC-All-Users