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School of Law_Dean Update_March 30, 2020

Dmitry Bam

University of Maine School of Law

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From: Dmitry Bam <dmitry.bam@maine.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Dmitry Bam
Subject: Final Maine Law Dean Update

Dear Students:

I know many of you are struggling to keep up with the pace of emails coming at you from every possible source, and I expect that this will be the last email from me for the week. I wanted to update you on a few things as you prepare for return to classes next week.

1. What I think many of us enjoy most about Maine Law is the close-knit community, and I know I'm finding that really hard to replicate via Zoom. The faculty and staff are discussing ways to recreate that experience as much as possible. We're considering the possibility of faculty presentations on hot topics (i.e. coronavirus & the law), town halls, and various other ideas. We'll be in touch soon about what we've come up with, but if you have some thoughts on what you'd like to see, please let me know.
2. You will be hearing from Jane Kennery, our Registrar, about exams in the near future. The plan is for all students to take the exams on the same day as they were originally scheduled, but students would be able to take the exam at any time during that particular day. In other words, a timed exam will still be timed and a take-home exam will still be a take-home exam, but for the former, you will have a little additional flexibility as to when during the day to take it.
3. Don't forget that you may withdraw from classes without penalty before the last day of classes. Please reach out to Dean Sherry Niang if you are interested in this option. I understand that some students are perhaps awaiting a decision on the Pass/Fail policy (see my email from earlier today) before making any withdrawal decisions.
4. The fall registration packet is going out next week. We will hold the "Planning Your Course of Study" session for the 1Ls on Monday, March 30, and the 2L/3L pre-registration session on March 31. The registration period has been extended to 2 weeks, and will start on April 1. As far as advising, you no longer need signatures from your advisors to register, but we encourage you to reach out to your advisors anyways starting next week to consult on course selection. More details are coming next week.
5. We are still planning to offer summer courses, either in person or online. We will keep assessing the situation as the summer session gets closer and determine whether a transition to Zoom is necessary.
6. Finally, I know all of you are in different situations, having to address all kinds of challenges. If you are facing extreme hardship or adversity (family, economic, mental health, etc.), we have a committed and devoted team that is here to help you. If you are struggling with anything, please reach out Dean Niang, our Dean of Students. I can't promise we can help with everything, but we'll listen and work with you the best we can to come up with solutions or potential resources.

That's it for now. Have a great (or at least good) weekend!

Dmitry

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