



Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

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## Academic Affairs update: Thursday, May 6, 2020

1 message

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**UMaine Provost** <umprovost@maine.edu>  
To: Robin Delcourt <audesse@maine.edu>  
Bcc: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Thu, May 7, 2020 at 12:40 PM

Good day to you all:

Final exam week, final grade submissions. Our students have learned so much from you during this historic term of spring 2020. **Thank you.**

Now our attention must turn to fall 2020 and preparing for the flexibility these times require from us. University of Maine System and University of Maine planning groups are preparing for hand sanitizing stations, quarantine protocols, precautions and multiple scenarios. For academic affairs, our focus must be on enhancing the **quality of student learning for fall 2020** in every course, degree and experience we provide.

The System is offering a **Brightspace symposium May 14–15** with the CEO of Desire2Learn providing the keynote address. Please consider joining your colleagues across our System to learn more about this platform as we prepare for fall. More information, including registration, is [online](#).

UMaine's **Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL)** is also providing workshops and coaching. You can schedule departmental training, attend a workshop, participate in peer discussions or register for a one-on-one consultation via Zoom.

As for other caveats for fall? Every faculty member will need to **be prepared to deliver classes in online or remote format**. Some faculty members may begin in face-to-face classes and then have to transition. The number of in-person participants in any room may be constrained at some point in the fall to meet social distancing requirements. Scenario thinking like this has us all asking if only a small part of our registered students can attend in person, how will we reach those who are viewing remotely or connecting online? A key focus we can emphasize is to enhance the quality of remote experiences for fall, even if some class time is in person.

While it may seem that there are more questions than answers at this moment, we have the strength, experience, and innovative ideas to help each other **plan to deliver a wonderful learning experience for our students** in any modality this fall. Please keep reading the responses and gathering ideas from your colleagues and from other institutions in the nation as we also set the standard with our own ideas for progress.

Finally, thank you for the submissions to the **Define Tomorrow initiative**. We have received over 130 ideas for revenue enhancements, cost reductions, program revisions, and reorganization options. You have until May 15 for this round to submit your thoughts to [umprovost@maine.edu](mailto:umprovost@maine.edu) or via the [anonymous online form](#). Thank you for being a part of this process to shape our future.

Thank you again.

Faye W. Gilbert, Ph.D.  
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and  
Dean of the Undergraduate School of Business  
University of Maine