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## Academic Affairs Update: Thursday, August 13, 2020

1 message

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**UMaine Provost** <umprovost@maine.edu>

Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 12:55 PM

Reply-To: UMaine Provost <umprovost@maine.edu>

To: UM-EMPLOYEES@lists.maine.edu

Good Thursday to you all,

Working together, we are an amazing force for progress. You all have done exceptionally well, in my opinion, in learning new ways of reaching students and supporting each other through these transitions. As we continue to prepare for fall, flexibility and compassion have to remain at the forefront of our actions.

Academic Affairs will complete its Annual Report within the next couple of weeks. This year it shows the progress toward achieving the goals established in the Strategic Vision and Values (SVV) framework this community worked to complete in 2018-19 with then Provost Jeffrey Hecker. We will also continue our work with the Define Tomorrow initiative where the steering committee will request implementation of easier steps and continue work with our new Provost, John Volin, on those items that need development. Thank you for your input on these critical components of strategic initiatives for UMaine.

This link (<https://umaine.edu/citl/teaching-resources-2/syllabus-guidelines-for-faculty/>) will lead you to the "COVID-19 Syllabus Statement" with language to use in your syllabus to emphasize that we will all wear face coverings, that food and drink will not be allowed in classes (e.g. when you lift the mask to drink you put those around you at risk), and other basic steps for safety that we can reinforce, together, with our syllabi this fall. Many thanks to the members of our Scientific Advisory Board for developing this and for tracking the latest guidance for this shifting landscape we find ourselves in today. We are very grateful to you for giving us the best information we can have at the time. My thanks also to our Faculty Senate for their contributions to the syllabus addendum.

The system has provided guidance to try to limit in-person classes to 30 students or less. We are re-checking with EOC on ventilation, configuration of classes, and other aspects of some of our larger classes. The deans will work with the Provost to ensure that requests for classes to remain at 49 students present at one time are reviewed. Please talk with your chair/director or dean if you have questions.

The deadline fast approaches for you to submit the work you have completed this summer to enhance the quality of your courses for Fall 2020. Please be sure your Chair/Director/Dean has the information to request an award for you based on those efforts to improve learning outcomes.

It's been a year. It's been the best of times in working with the dedicated people in the Office of the Provost. It is difficult to describe or give enough credit to the people who support efforts of faculty and staff with long hours, optimistic outlooks, and staunch loyalty to this institution. I thank them, immensely, for the support this past year and for the investment of time in this next year with Provost John Volin.

As we all continue to work to open for Fall 2020, I also thank you. On behalf of all of us and the students who will learn from you this fall, thank you for the investment of time. You care about excellence, about each other, and about our this community and it shows, every day. As Provost John Volin begins his position on Friday, August 14th, please look for a time to welcome him and his family to our community. ...and on we go...together.