

Dr. Poulter Meeting 10/23/20

1. What plans and preparations have been made for the spring semester?

We have had a Pandemic Planning group that has been working since the start of the pandemic. What we have learned from this fall is what our best practices are. We will be able to implement those practices in the spring. One of the committees that have come out of this process is the Expanded Schedule Group. This group works with many other groups to look at bottle necks in class scheduling to reduce traffic. If we expand the times we offer classes, we can have smaller amounts of students in classroom to allow for more face to face classes. As of right now, about 70% of classes take place between 8-noon. This group is helping to adjust classes to make them flow more seamlessly. We will also have two large campus wide testing events, one after winter break and one after spring break.

2. Moving forward after this pandemic do we see any new changes that will be made concerning the way in which faculty and staff work and provide services on campus?

- Academic advising has been changed in a really positive way since becoming virtual. Meeting virtually has helped us be able to reach more students than ever.
- Faculty office hours can now be more equitable because they can meet virtually.
- While we like meeting face to face on campus, it is more convenient to meeting via Zoom. More meetings in the future will probably have virtual options.
- Teaching will be better because so many people have learned new ways to teach and we have gotten better at communicating.

3. What is the best way to handle a student complaint regarding a faculty member?

If a student feels like they cannot talk to the faculty member, they should also go to the department chair.

4. Is the university offering refunds to students beyond the refund period for dropping classes or withdrawing if it's due to COVID 19?

If it is their own illness, like any other major illness, we can work with them. Our withdrawal numbers now are lower than our numbers at this time last year.

5. Can faculty assist with the volunteer needs of the December Graduation event?

Typically they are required to attend commencement according to the handbook, but this year they are not required to attend. This means that this year they can volunteer, but we want to make sure that staff have the opportunity to earn comp time. If we don't have enough volunteers we might also be asking some student organizations for help.

6. We are hearing that students are getting frustrated with communications between them and the instructors. Some instructors are not returning emails. We are hearing that some in person classes are being changed to zooms so students don't know if they go to their in person class or not. Roommates are zooming while one is studying which makes it difficult. Also the zooms are not engaging. There doesn't seem to be any office hours for instructors.

If you do not see any office hours, email the professor and CC the department chair because office hours are required. In order to correct any frustrations a student might have with a professor, we need to find out the specifics in order to address these issues. We want to tackle these issues head on so that they can be addressed quickly, but in order for this to happen we first have to know about it. Once Dr. Poulter's office gets this information, they will reach out to the department chair to get to the root of the issue.

7. What is the ratio of students to faculty?

15 students – 1 faculty member

Additional questions:

Will we be hosting camps and conferences this summer?

We are planning as if we are going to have summer camps and conferences this year. These are not hard yeses as we do not know what will happen between then and now. All organizations who want to host an event on campus must agree to abide by our campus rules about mask wearing.

Get to know us!

Favorite flavor of birthday cake: chocolate

Favorite US City: Grand Marais, Minnesota

Favorite European city? Prague

Favorite band: The Ozark Mountain Daredevils or The Stooges

What is a new skill you want to learn in the next 5 years? How to graft fruit trees

Favorite holiday: Christmas

Netflix or Hulu: Netflix

Sweet or Savory: Savory

Tea or Coffee: Coffee

Favorite spot on campus: The WWII tree grove in front of McAlister.

Favorite memory from undergrad: William Warfield's Master Class or attending a free concert and meeting the person that would become her best friend to this very day