

To: WSU Pullman Faculty

From: Elizabeth Chilton (provost@wsu.edu)

Subject: Fall 2021 Planning

Dear Pullman Faculty Colleagues,

I hope this email finds you well and having a successful start to the academic semester.

You may have seen the [recent system-wide communication about working toward a more robust in-person WSU experience for Fall 2021](#). As communicated, we are optimistic about focusing our planning efforts on more substantive in-person interactions come fall. I also want to reiterate my steadfast commitment to your health and safety, as well as the welfare of our students and staff. Many of our first year students have not yet been to campus, and those who have are struggling to feel connected to their faculty and each other. Of course we also hope to enroll a robust group of new students this fall, despite the fact that applications for admission to colleges are significantly down nation wide. I know that we share a commitment to their academic success, degree progress—and of course we want them to choose or to remain at WSU! At the same time, I remain dedicated to working with colleagues concerned about workplace exposure to COVID-19 and will continue to encourage flexibility by supervisors to utilize telework arrangements as appropriate.

In light of planning for a more robust in-person experience for Fall 2021, we communicated with our course schedulers on Tuesday (January 26) to indicate that proofing for Fall 2021 is open and to plan for face-to-face classes at the present time. In the meantime, and in collaboration with Facilities Services, we are carefully reviewing all classrooms on the Pullman campus and determining measures that will need to be applied to allow for safe face-to-face course delivery. While it is impossible to predict exactly where we will be in this public health crisis in August, we will make some key decisions in the next few weeks about course delivery method so that you will have ample time to plan for the fall semester.

As we continue to navigate the unpredictable and relentless nature of the pandemic, I thought it would be helpful for you to see the guiding principles that the Provost's Office has developed to ensure we are making critical decisions in alignment with our desire to keep students, faculty, staff, and communities safe and healthy.

PROVOST'S OFFICE GUIDING PRINCIPLES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Balance health considerations and mandates for faculty, staff, and students
- Carefully evaluate and mitigate equity issues where possible
- Maintain and enhance the quality of instruction for students
- Adhere to federal, state, and regional-level guidelines
- Adhere to the Washington State University COVID-19 approved guidelines
- Model and protect a whole-life perspective for faculty, staff, and students

Our faculty is the engine that makes WSU and our students successful. I have certainly seen firsthand how you have worked tirelessly and adjusted quickly to the ever-changing professional and personal landscape caused by the pandemic. We are again prepared to deliver a first-class educational experience for our students this spring. Your innovation and unparalleled dedication to our students continues to shine and are inspiring. I am thankful for your unwavering commitment to our students and the institution!

We will continue to work with university administrators in the next several weeks to define expectations and a path forward for Fall 2021. In the meantime, you are always welcome to contact me and provide your suggestions at provost@wsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth S. Chilton
Provost and Executive Vice President
Professor, Department of Anthropology