

**From:** Sunita Cooke <scooke@miracosta.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:03 PM  
**To:** All Governance <AllGovernance@miracosta.edu>  
**Subject:** Back2Campus

Dear Colleagues:

I wanted to share with you a summary of a collaborative meeting held on Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over 40 MiraCostans were invited to the meeting representing both faculty unions, all employee groups, Academic Senate, Classified Senate, Associated Student Government, Administrative Committee, Professional Development, and site leaders to discuss what Fall 21 might look like, to share ideas and concerns. We're calling that group "Back2Campus" and using this as a way to collaborate about planning for the future and increasing transparency and communication about this topic.

I want to express my gratitude for your heroic efforts over this past year in support of our students and our employees under some of the most challenging conditions we many never have imagined. I appreciate each and every one of you! I acknowledge the anxiety and mixed emotions that arise as we talk about where we are and how we might move forward together. In order to ensure fidelity in communication, I will send out a summary of meetings each time we meet and we will also spend time in our all college webinar on March 3<sup>rd</sup> on this topic also.

Please know that the safety of our students and employees remains our top focus. As you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to me, your supervisor or dean and also your constituent group leaders. Please share your ideas and solutions with them as well.

Please see the summary of our February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, below.

### **I. Context and Background - Vaccine and Timeline**

Dr. Cooke welcomed the group and said that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss what fall 21 might look like with some increased return to campus. Safety of students/employees is paramount followed by the quality of instruction and services. We value collaboration and transparency and will be demonstrating this with this work in dealing with and preparing for Covid. Today's meeting is for the purpose of updates, sharing what is known and also what we may not know for some time. Most of the session will be for sharing of ideas, suggestions, questions, and concerns. Since we do not know how quickly a vaccine will roll out, as there have been some setbacks, we do know that educators in San Diego County are still not eligible, but will keep all updated as soon as we get word. Educators are in the next tier to be released and this includes all employees of K-12, colleges, and universities. In the interest of keeping employees and students healthy, the district's intent is to require a vaccine for employees, with the understanding that there will be at least two types of exceptions (medical and deeply held religious beliefs). SDICCCA leaders representing the 10 community college are in regular communication and will be meeting together next week to discuss this. We have had a small number of classes operating through this academic year at the Oceanside Campus and also the Technology Career Institute. To open the campus more broadly for educational activities and gatherings, we

need to be in the red tier. We are seeing a decline in cases and hospitalizations so hopefully this will be coming soon.

## **II. Human Resources**

Charlie Ng reported that he is monitoring closely when the County will release vaccinations for educators. He is also monitoring the tiers and we are currently in the Purple Tier. Once we hit the Red Tier, 25 percent campus capacity would be allowed, and the Orange and Yellow Tier's would allow 50 percent capacity. We have Campus check-in stations and a phone app for ensuring health and tracking movements from building to building for those that are on campus. We will be sending out updates regularly and will immediately send notice when educators are eligible for vaccines. Proof of employment could include a MiraCosta employee ID or a pay stub which can be printed from Workday.

## **III. Facilities Context**

Tim Flood reported that there is a huge amount of construction currently going on at all campus locations, particularly at the SEC and CLC. The SEC projects will most likely not be completed until mid-fall, therefore this campus will remain closed in fall 2021. The facilities at CLC and Oceanside campuses will be fully operational this summer. We have been preparing for various forms of returning to campus and PPE and sanitation stations are fully stocked, all classrooms have been and continue to be sanitized. The HVAC ventilation is being worked on along with room configurations for distancing guidelines. He said they are also looking at and considering some outside areas for classes and meetings. He is also in contact with the food services company – Chartwells (purchased Culinary), to be sure some food is available as we bring people back to campus.

## **IV. Instructional Needs**

Dr. Dieckmeyer reviewed the timeline and types of classes that may be considered for fall 2021. These include, Online (asynchronous), Scheduled Online (online, with a synchronous component in Zoom), Hybrid (some portion of on-ground, along with an online component), and 100 percent on-ground. Considerations for what might fall into the last two categories (hybrid and fully on-ground) include impact to certificate/degree completion, labs and performance classes, student learner needs, and possibly gateway classes, as well as and where students are not enrolling for online options. She said the focus is on safety, instructional modality quality, and the student experience. This will be further discussed at the a focus of the work of Department Chairs' at their upcoming retreat. The timeline for schedule production was reviewed with critical dates for guidance in early March and then student registration starting for summer and fall on May 3, 2021.

## **V. Student Service Supports**

Dr. Wojcik reported that student services is developing a plan to have some services on campus in proportion to students on campus. Physical screens and shields have been installed for a couple of areas and will be installed in other areas and a walk through of facilities will determine further modifications required. Additionally, to avoid groups of people within offices, an application called QLess has been purchased to allow students to cue while being outdoors and socially distanced for safety. The QLess app would allow students to check in and virtually get in line for a service and then receive a notification via their phone when it is their time to be served. She also added that the request has been made for student representatives from Associated Students to be appointed to this group to ensure that students have a voice in our planning.

## **VI. Questions, Concerns, Discussion**

Several questions and concerns were brought up both during the Zoom discussion and in the Chat feature on Zoom.

- Mandating vaccines – health and religious concerns – an accommodations process can be used for exceptions that will take into account the safety of the employee and those around the employee.
- We may be alter or look at special office space, schedule shifts, or work off campus for those not vaccinated
- Hyflex courses were mentioned giving students options and also reducing the number of students in classrooms on any one day. Outdoor classrooms were also mentioned, such as under tents (UCSD)..
- There are still a lot of "unknown" issues and coming to work for some could seem like a risk

- TCI have been successfully rotating their staff, along with students; they mandate masks and only have 16 per classroom/lab; alternating staff has not been good for morale and connectedness.
- Concerns heard about those who are vulnerable or who have vulnerable folks in their family.
- We cannot mandate specific actions for those that are over a certain age or in any other category as that would be discriminatory.
- A suggestion was made to consider allowing faculty the choice to return to campus
- There will have to be more flexibility and more options available for employees as the world of work has shifted.
- Concerns were shared about multiple vaccines and which is most effective. This issue has many layers. Also sanitizing between classes was raised as a concern.
- Air Filters have been ordered for every facility and every room, there has also been new advancements with more efficient cleaners and disinfectants that prevent viruses and bacteria for longer periods of time (days).
- The request was made for ideas on how we can better communicate about this complex information.
- Need clarity for meetings and many rooms are very small – are all rooms set up for zoom? Are there rules for outdoor spaces? It would be helpful to know the options, such as formulas for distance for physical activity.
- Communication in the form of an opt-in daily text from the district would be useful and one site where people could look for up to date information.
- Baby steps could be taken, ie. be on campus but continue most meetings on zoom
- Challenges for outside classrooms (electricity, wifi), however not impossible
- Creative thinking – using cameras and streaming
- Would need to offer an adequate number of classes and services on campus to make it worth a student's time to come to campus. Would they want to drive here just for one class?
- Professional development – anything we are not offering or doing?
- Survey of students – both current and those who have left so that we can keep our decisions based upon student needs.
- Mental health issues need to be addressed as there is a tremendous amount of anxiety and isolation
- Wellness issues – focus on what could be helpful for people.

## VII. Next Steps

- A summary of this meeting will be sent out to the entire college
- Another meeting in two weeks with this group and regular meetings through the spring. Preparations will continue through summer.
- March 3, 2021 - 1-3 pm– This topic will be discussed at the All District Webinar.

Sincerely,

*Sunny*

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Superintendent/President



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