**William Penn University 2021-22**

*Forward, Together.*

June 16, 2021

The 2020-21 academic year, albeit different from a ‘normal’ year, concluded with an in-person graduation ceremony on May 8, 2021. The ceremony was a wonderful way to cap off a year of uncertainty, change and overall success.

One of the greatest advantages we have going into the upcoming academic year is that we don’t have to reopen. That’s because we never closed. Face to face learning occurred for our traditional campus students all year. Residence halls were open. Our athletes competed. Our musicians and thespians performed. Clubs and organizations continued their progress in making our campus an engaged one.

The WP family worked together to make last year a memorable one, given the limitations that COVID-19 placed upon us. The next step in the pandemic recovery is to go *Forward, Together*.

***What We Expect***

If the last 18 months have taught us anything, it is that we must be flexible enough to adjust and change course when conditions warrant. The current state of low virus activity, low hospitalizations and growing vaccination rates in Iowa give us confidence that the Fall semester can be the normal college experience that we all enjoy. At present, here are just a few things we expect for the coming year:

1. **Face-to-face classroom learning will be expected.**

We intend to have all on-campus classes delivered in our classrooms with all students in attendance. The classrooms remain equipped with the cameras and Zoom technology if a temporary switch needs to be made to a hybrid instructional delivery. The Remote learning option will not be made widely available to students. If a student has an extraordinary circumstance as to why in-person learning is not an option for them for the entire semester, the student should contact the Academic Dean’s Office to discuss their specific situation.

1. **Masking is optional.**

We do not anticipate the need for masking to occur in classroom spaces, public spaces, University transportation or in other situations where physical distancing cannot be achieved. However, students and employees should feel comfortable wearing a mask if they so choose.

1. **Vaccinations are encouraged, but not required.**

We will be coordinating vaccination clinics with Mahaska County Public Health at the start of the fall semester to offer vaccinations to any student or employee that has not yet been vaccinated but would like to be. We were fortunate to offer two vaccination clinics at the end of the Spring 2021 semester and have the ability to scale those into larger events if the need is there. We will also offer students regular information on how to obtain a vaccination in Oskaloosa and surrounding areas if they are unable to participate in a campus clinic.

1. **Athletic teams and performance groups will have full schedules; spectators at full capacity.**

Did you miss cheering on your fellow Statesmen at all home events? We did, too. We expect that we will be able to be at full capacity in all athletic venues in the fall. This also holds true for music performances, theatre productions, campus-wide events and club/organization meetings.

1. **Campus dining options will be fully operational.**

The cafeteria, PAC Café and Game Room food options will be fully available in the fall. Seating arrangements will be back to normal in the cafeteria so students and staff can enjoy meals together again. However, we will keep take-out options available for those needing a quick bite between classes. Check out <https://wpucampusdining.sodexomyway.com/bite> to learn more about the Bite app and general food service information.

***What We’ll Carry With Us***

We’d be remiss if we didn’t take some of the things we’ve learned in the last year and continue them into the fall. We had the capacity for testing and quick contact tracing that many colleges envied. These processes will remain in place, giving students and parents the peace of mind of knowing the health and safety of our campus family continues to be critically important.

1. **Practicing proper hygiene is important.**

Many of the public health initiatives that were commonly discussed in the last 18 months are healthy habits that we should carry into the future, even past the pandemic. Covering coughs, washing hands frequently and staying home when you are sick will keep our campus community safer from a variety of illnesses, including COVID-19.

1. **COVID-19 testing will remain available on campus to students and employees.**

One of the most important factors of our doors staying open last year was our ability to test students and employees that were feeling ill or had been deemed a contact of a positive case. Our quick action in contact tracing of positive cases, surveillance testing and collaboration with our local public health officials resulted in low community spread among our students. Although we don’t anticipate the need to test every day, or perform surveillance testing this fall, we have the capacity to do so if needed.

1. **Isolation and quarantine spaces will be available on campus.**

We will have spaces available on campus for our residential students that find themselves in an isolation or quarantine situation. Meal delivery, mail delivery, trash pickup, remote counseling services and a multitude of other services will remain available to students, as we offered last year.

We are all excited to welcome you to campus this fall. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you soon!