

## Provost Update to Academic Senate August 24, 2021

### In this report, we will focus on the immediate start of the fall 2021 semester

Welcome back everyone as we get ready for the fall 2021 semester. This semester is the next step in our journey together through this challenging and changing situation. It will again require the kind teamwork and flexibility you have all shown this past year and a half. We are in a good position to welcome back the students for an on-campus, in-person education. We have started a new FAQ for fall 2021 on the provost's website, which you can find here:

<https://provost.catholic.edu>

- If you have not yet had a chance to read President Garvey's email message from last Thursday (August 19), you can do so [HERE](#).
- Since vaccination rates are on lots of our minds, it is worth reporting them here as well. **As of the morning of August 23rd, we have a vaccination rate of more than 88% among the faculty, staff, and enrolled students who have reported (85% for students and 90% for faculty and staff).** Our survey response rate is at 96% for enrolled students (with 4257 total responses) and 99% for faculty and staff (with 1234 total responses), and we continue to reach out to non-reporting individuals to reach full compliance with the reporting mandate.
- If you do not already do so, please regularly consult [this website](#) for University-wide COVID-19 updates.
- See the Provost's website for recently posted [FAQ for faculty](#).
- See the Library's website for its [latest COVID-related information](#).
- Student Life FAQ can be found [HERE](#).
- The [academic calendar](#) is planned to be similar to a pre-pandemic fall semester, including holiday breaks, and unless things change, we will have our normal Thanksgiving break and return to campus afterwards etc.
- Undergraduate and graduate student successes are on our minds and thus a part of our planning process. In particular, for undergraduate students:
  - We will conduct a progress report campaign at week 5 for ALL undergraduate students.
  - We will require midterm grades to be submitted for ALL undergraduate students.
  - Please issue "alerts" for any students that you have concerns about - we know the transition back to in-person learning may be an adjustment for some and we want to provide academic and mental health supports when needed.

and for graduate students:

- Advisors, chairs, and deans should be in regular contact with their graduate students and be sensitive to their academic and personal needs, including mental health support when needed.
- Language examinations, comprehensive examinations, dissertation defenses and the like should be in-person experiences. Of course, we will need to be flexible and adaptable, as circumstances warrant, regarding the format. If circumstances warrant an online dissertation defense, please have the school administrator consult with the graduate dean, Steve Brown, prior to approving any online defenses.
- Please continue to ensure that graduate students are enrolled in your courses and appear on Blackboard and your Cardinal Students rosters. This is extremely important if your graduate students receive any financial aid, grants, or scholarships, as they are based on accurate registration and enrollment.

### Update on Graduate Admissions

- Based on the August 19th Fall 2021 Graduate Application Statistics Report:
  - Fall 2021 Master's Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 8/19/2020)
    - Overall, there is a decrease of 153 applications (-14.8%);
    - Overall, there is a decrease of 156 admissions (-18.7%);
    - Overall, there is a decrease of 97 deposits (-20.6%).
  - Fall 2021 Doctoral Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 8/19/2020)
    - Overall, there is a decrease of 67 applications (-13.2%);
    - Overall, there is a decrease of 41 admissions (-20.1%);
    - Overall, there is an increase of 32 deposits (-28.3%).

Regarding the master's deposits, the net change from 2020 to 2021 is: Metro (+0), A&S (-1), CL (-3), MDA (-4), Nursing (-5), Phil (-7), Arch (-11), TRS (-14), Engineering (-16), Business (-17), and NCSSS (-18).

- Columbus School of Law enrolled 166 new students with a strong academic profile (158 LSAT median and 3.50 GPA median.)

### Miscellaneous

- Parking permits for faculty who've worked for 20+ years
  - There was a snafu with faculty who have worked at the university for 20 years, who would have otherwise been eligible for free parking since the start date of faculty contracts has changed over time to better reflect the academic calendar. They are indeed eligible for this small thanks for their long service even if the contract dates are off by a few days.