

May 5, 2020

**MSU Faculty and Staff:**

We hope that each of you are doing well. As you watch the news and Governor Beshear offers guidance on reopening parts of our state, you will have seen that select businesses/industries/professions have been given the approval for phased re-opening during the month of May. As part of the conversations on the reopening of higher education, we have been in discussions with the Governor and other health agencies in vetting a few basic outlines from a policy level. We will continue these discussions over the next week or two.

More local to our University, and in order for our campus to adequately plan, we have composed the following teams around our main functional areas which will be led by the following individuals:

Academic Affairs: Dr. Bob Albert  
Student Affairs: Russ Mast  
Fiscal Services: Mary Fister-Tucker  
University Advancement: Jim Shaw  
Facilities and Auxiliaries: Kim Oatman

Each of these conveners have been considering options and items for discussion and will be meeting with their group to accomplish two overarching goals/questions: 1.) How do we accomplish a phased reopening of operations for employees and what types of phases would be needed in each area as we move into the summer; 2). What would the process for accommodating students with instruction and services in the fall semester look like, and how would those various operations be positioned.

There is a significant amount of variation among units across campus, and these discussions and planning groups will offer guidance and plans as we move in this direction. As we assemble the plans from each team, we will then aggregate them into a broader University-wide plan. Each of our main constituency body chairs have been placed on a team.

If you have suggestions that you would wish one or more of these teams to consider, please send them to one of the individuals noted above so that they can add to their discussion lists.

As we move forward to reopening for employees we will be using a timeline that has been vetted with the Governor, public health officials, and other higher education agencies. Furthermore, the approach will be phased, and it will have a component of flexibility in rotations, work arrangements, and otherwise. Our initial goal of phasing back into campus for employees is needed to have ample time to monitor and adjust how we operate and further prepare for full operations for fall semester.

Looking forward to the fall semester, our goal is to develop our instructional and service components with as much stability as we can, but with a number of precautions, safeguards, and ability to move in a variety of directions should we need to do so.

Thank you for what each of you are doing.  
Jay Morgan  
President