

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BACK-TO-SCHOOL TOWN HALL

July 10, 2020

PANELISTS

President Ana Mari Cauce

Vice Provost of Academic and Student Affairs Phil Reid

Vice President for Student Life Denzil Suite

Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Ed Taylor

Dean of the Graduate School Joy Williamson-Lott

Moderator: Assistant Vice President of Communications Jack Martin

TRANSCRIPT

Jack Martin: Hello and welcome to this town hall on the university of Washington's plans for the autumn quarter. I'm Jack Martin, assistant vice President for communications and I will be facilitating today's discussion. In advance of the town hall he received inquiries and questions from more than 300 members of our community. A few key topics have emerged and we will focus on those to begin the conversation. You can also email your questions to presofuw@uw.edu during the broadcast and a full recording of the town hall will be available later if you missed part of it.

To answer your questions we have five UW leaders with us today. President Ana Mari Cauce, Vice Provost of Academic and Student Affairs Phil Reid, Vice President for Student Life Denzil Suite, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Ed Taylor, and Dean of the Graduate School Joy Williamson-Lott. Dr. Williamson-Lott and Dr. Reid are co-chairs of the back-to-school taskforce.

I will also note there are town halls for UW Bothell and UW Tacoma respectively. Bothell's is happening right now and Tacoma's will take place July 13. We posted links to both of those on uw.edu/President/townhall. To begin today's conversation, I would like to introduce President Cauce for some opening remarks.

Ana Mari Cauce: Thank you so much, Jack and thank you all for joining us today. I want to begin by recognizing this is a time of uncertainty and concern, quite frankly for all of us on campus. But particularly for parents and students as they are trying to make decisions going forward. And I wish I could reassure you that and give you some certainty about the course of the pandemic, obviously I cannot do that. But what I can do is assure you that as we make decisions the safety of our campus, classrooms, residence halls, your safety is front of mind for us. And that I can give you absolute assurance.

Safety is our top priority as we continue to prepare for really a host of contingencies because the pandemic is in charge and we have to be ready for lots of possibilities. All of those, and all of those possibilities, we are following Washington states safe start plan and guidance for universities that is informed by public health guidance including the very top biologists, public health doctors, right here in our world-class university of Washington medical center. I also want to remind you that we were the very first university in the whole country to decide to go remote when we realized that it was not entirely safe to have our students on campus, we made the tough decision, and we led the way, and we will continue to do that.

We wrote to you a couple weeks ago announcing that we are going to go into a hybrid mode of instruction. And that means we will be mixing up online with in-person. We will also be providing extensive support and student engagement opportunities for our students. Whether they are going remote, and especially if they are coming in-person. We are going to activate the campus to the fullest extent possible. While ensuring that health and safety guidelines are absolutely top of mind.

A lot of times things are framed in terms of closing and reopening, and we get asked are you going to reopen? I want to remind everyone that we never closed. And I don't just mean our medical center. During this entire time, we have had over 2000 students in our dorms, for a host of different reasons, students elected not to go home, in some cases they did not have safe homes to go to, for a range of different reasons. So we had more than 2000 students in our residence halls since March. And they have been here throughout the very height of the pandemic. And throughout that entire time we have only had a handful of positive cases, I can count them on one hand. Less than 1%. And they have all resolved quickly without a lot of community spread. So we've already proven, we already have experience in keeping our on-campus residents safe. We will continue to follow those guidelines.

Now, I know that many of you have been reading the papers and you been hearing about our Greek Row neighborhood, that's right north of campus, that we have had an outbreak there. That has been a learning experience for us. And it has been a wake-up call.

First of all, we learned that when we have an outbreak, we need to respond quickly. And as you may know, or maybe you don't, we were able to stand up a testing facility because of our wonderful UW medical center, we were able to stand up a testing facility right on Greek Row, and within a couple of days we tested over 16,000 students in the Greek Row neighborhood. And we also worked to contain this with them, they did go into isolation, and we learned a lot about how to quickly control an outbreak. Again, because we happen to be right next door to one of the very best healthcare systems in the country.

But we also learned that while we have been focusing on preparing our on-campus residents, and working with our students at the residence halls, this outbreak showed us that we need to accelerate education, for all students now, even though we are entirely remote at this moment, that we need to be educating our students that are off-campus because many of them are here, and did not return home, or they returned back to the Greater campus area.

One of the messages that is important for us to get across to students is at times it has not been the message they have been hearing, is that they are every bit as at risk to get COVID as are the elderly. Yes, those people who are older are more likely to die from COVID, but young people are absolutely just as apt to get COVID, as anybody else and as we learn more about the effects of COVID, and it's important for people to realize, we are still learning a lot about COVID, we don't know it all. It is a brand-new disease. We are learning that in fact, even for those people who are fairly close to asymptomatic, or who have very, very low symptoms, that there may be health repercussions down the line.

So it is important for us, and we are working very hard and will continue to work very hard to get the message across to students that they are not just carriers and transmitters, is not just about protecting their grandparents, it is about protecting themselves and their peers and our entire community from the major disruption and from serious health effects. So we are now actively engaged in creating a kind of environment in which students are aware of the health risks to them, to their friends, not just to their grandparents. And one of the things that we have already worked on in our residence halls and that we will now continue to work on as students do come back and not just on campus, but in the neighborhood, is to create a culture that puts health and community first and foremost in the minds of all our students.

We are part of the community we live in, we are not separate from our community. And one of the things you will notice as we create our safety plans, we recognize one of the best ways of keeping our students safe and healthy is keeping our entire community safe and healthy. And UWMC has been partnering with the city of Seattle, with King County, and with the state, keeping our entire community safe.

This crisis will continue to test our resolve. It will test our character. And it will test our students and our ability to make good choices including putting our community first. But I have enormous faith in their our student, faculty and staff, we can do this. We can have a truly fabulous quarter for learning, and for taking care of not just our physical health but our mental health. Yes, COVID is out there affecting our physical health. But the mental health consequences of being isolated, are also real. And we have to deal with both. Our students are smart, these are

compassionate young people, I believe that they can make a difference in creating a safe, healthy and meaningful quarter for us all. So thank you to everyone who sent in questions, and we look forward to addressing the most pressing ones today.

Jack Martin: Thank you President Cauce, obviously as you mentioned, one of the most pressing questions people have for the fall is about how we will keep students safe, I would like to start with Dean Taylor and I know Vice President Suite has some information to share here as well. What can students expect when they return to campus?

Ed Taylor: Thank you Jack. I'm going to bridge from what Ana Mari just said, President Cauce just said. Here's a moment when I cannot be more proud to be part of the public research university. The people on this campus, the faculty and the staff, and the staff who work so closely with the custodial staff in our buildings right now, engaged in this very fine performance I might say, of asking two important questions. What is the research and public policy tell us to do? What do we learn from research and public policy?

Much of that research is coming from our university. And what are practical things we can do day to day, how does that inform our day-to-day engagement? That has been a fine rhythm we have been in since March, it has been remarkable to see this campus working together, preparing for students to come back. Here's the important part of this, we know that some of this, will be practical, tangible kind of things we need to do, guided by research. Some of this is a cultural issue, just as the President has said got this means changing the culture of the campus.

Joy Williamson-Lott and I are going to work together on creating something called the Husky Pledge, Joy's smiling about this because this is going to be fun work for us to do together, it will involve undergraduates and graduate students. I'm going to tell you where this comes from. It's not an idea that comes from us, this comes from our students. And it comes from conversations with student after student after student who have said staff are leaning in, custodial staff are going to lean in, faculty are going to but for this to work, students have to own it and students have to lead it.

We're going to ask students and work with them to develop this notion called the Husky Pledge, where we lead this moment in time and look after each other and we are each other's keepers. Not just a roommate, not just our classmates, but our custodial staff. Our faculty as well. That we do the work to care for and lead to this moment. We going to ask our students and our community to do something that no class has ever done before in in the history of this university, so it's going to be driven largely by you.

When I talk to students I've heard two things: one is that people doubt we can do it. And the second is, we know we can do this. So we are going to have this pledge for the students, we are going to drive this and create a culture on this campus. It turns out that Joy and I some years ago taught a course that had the same name, Joy taught it and I taught it, and it was called Education as a Moral Endeavor. In some ways as we work together we will see this as a moral endeavor and change the culture of this campus. So we keep each other safe. That the cultural part.

I'm going to turn part of this question to Denzil because there are some practical things parents and families and students want to know which is what are we going to do for testing? What happened to somewhat test positive? What are practical things so Denzil if you might take up those questions?

Denzil Suite: I appreciate that. I'm happy to speak on that. I think the key take away is that robust testing will be available for faculty, staff and students. We ask anyone who has symptoms, to be in touch with our own environmental health and safety.

We are also keenly aware that some communities have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 including our African American communities as well as individuals with underlying health conditions. We are taking all that into consideration as we prepare plans.

There will be surveillance testing which will be developed in conjunction with our campus health experts. It will be based on the most current public health guidance. This will help us with the identification of asymptomatic and presymptomatic cases. And we will have a lot more information on that as we get closer to the start of the term.

I did also want to mention that if cases were developed in the residence halls, the residential staff are well trained to handle this. And will work in support of environmental health and safety to manage these cases.

For on-campus residents we will have several designated isolation spaces, for confirmed cases. However the majority of close contacts needing quarantine, will be able to stay in their rooms because many of our spaces have private baths. We can then deliver food, packages, and other items directly to our residents at their doors.

Those of you who are living off campus, we do encourage you to develop a COVID safety plan prior to arrival, including thinking through isolation and quarantine protocols.

Jack Martin: Thank you. UW medicine, other health providers and researchers are talking a lot about the value and importance of masks. Vice President Suite, I want to stay with you for a moment. What are the UW's policies about masks and will masks and other PPE be provided? And a simple kind of straight forward question, if an instructor has a course and the student's in the room, they are not wearing a mask, what happens there and conversely, what happens if a student has a class and their instructor isn't wearing a mask? Can you walk us through the questions around masks?

Denzil Suite: All good questions. What we have learned— let me start by saying, what we have learned from our public health officials is that masks and other good hygiene practices are very effective in stemming the tide of this virus. So the policy at the university of Washington is that everyone must wear a face covering indoors whenever there are other people present. This includes common areas such as hallways, stairways, restrooms, elevators, and even outside when it is not possible to stay six feet away from others.

I would say that we are all part of the Husky family. And family members take care of each other. And wearing a mask is just one of the ways in which we demonstrate that care. So we are really counting on voluntary compliance and participation to develop this culture of care.

And while we will have some availability of masks when students arrive, we are strongly encouraging students, faculty, and staff, to bring their own reusable masks to campus at the start of the new term.

Jack Martin: Thank you. I want to turn to academics, Vice Provost Reid, we have heard from students and families who want to understand what the hybrid model for the fall will look like. Can you talk about that and also share how many classes in the fall term will be offered remotely vs to in-person?

Phil Reid: I'm happy to do that, Jack. What hybrid means is that, of our courses, some will be offered remotely, and others will be offered in-person. Of the total 7,000 courses we typically offer in autumn, 2,000 will be offered in-person. Those in-person courses are things like practical training – I'm a chemistry professor – so laboratories, things that are difficult to do remotely. There will be large lecture courses that will be remote but in-person discussion sessions and smaller groups to discuss topics in the course. Some of those will be in-person. And we offer in-person

courses that support academic success of students. We have something called FIGs, first-year interest groups, the students take a couple of courses in common. Those have been shown to help students be successful. Half of the FIGs we are offering in the fall will be offered in-person to promote student academics.

Jack Martin: Thank you. I want to stay with you for a moment. We've also received questions from students asking for more clarity about whether they can choose to take all of their courses remotely in the fall. Can any student choose to learn remotely for any reason and what kind of accommodations will be made for students who want to be enrolled in an in-person course?

Phil Reid: A great question. First of all, if a student would like to take all of their courses remotely and do an entirely remote schedule that is fine. I don't need a doctor's note, you can do it for any reason, entirely fine. In terms of the second bit for in-person versus remote options, they will not be a required remote option for the courses but we are encouraging our faculty to build in a remote option for those in-person courses, in the eventuality, if we are not able to do instruction in the fall, and we are doing anything remotely, we want to make sure those courses can go back and be taught remotely, so that students can maintain academic progress.

Jack Martin: Thank you. A related subject, this time from the faculty members' perspective or instructors' perspective, including our teaching assistants. What is the university's guidance for instructors who might be scheduled to teach an in-person class but don't feel that it's safe for them to do so for a variety of reasons?

Phil Reid: This is a great question and one we have been thinking about a lot as we prepare for the fall. As Ana Mari said in the opening, safety is first and foremost in all of our planning for the fall. That extends to classroom and instructional programs. Classrooms will look different in the fall than the past. We reduced occupancy so we can maintain six feet of physical distancing. As you heard from Denzil, everyone will be wearing a mask in the classrooms, and all common space and buildings. We've added an hour between classes and will control entry and exit in buildings so that students and faculty and instructors can get in and out of buildings without crowding and maintaining distancing. We are doing everything we can for operations of classrooms to operate them in a safe way as possible.

If an instructor has reservations or concerns about teaching in-person, they are encouraged to contact their chair or the program director, whoever is in charge of helping with teaching assignments to talk about those reservations and see if those concerns can be accommodated by moving to remote instruction. In our planning, in all facets, we've been very consistent, that if someone's work, a student, staff, or faculty member, can be done remotely, then that option should be seriously considered and explored.

Jack Martin: Thank you. Dean Taylor, obviously the college experience to being at the university to what happens outside the classroom, many undergraduates have asked what they can expect day to day life to be like this fall and how students - especially incoming and transfer students - can start to build community and get the college experience? Can you speak to that?

Ed Taylor: That's the heart of our work. And the work of my unit and Denzil's and our colleague Rickey Hall who is our university diversity office and Dr. Joy Williamson-Lott. I want to say this on behalf, I will speak for my colleagues. One of the things that is so inspiring, that your audience will not get to see, behind us, in our buildings, at their

homes, our staff who are creating an environment for students in creating a culture for a students. And they have been working tirelessly since this pandemic hit. Day-to-day. Around one fundamental concept. That how we carry out our mission may change but our mission does not fundamentally change at all.

I know this is on the minds of parents and so many students when they come to campus, what is it going to be like? We're going to be honest with you. It is not going to be like a year ago, you will come to the campus arm in arm with thousands of students. It will look and feel different. How we carry out our mission will change some but our mission will not change.

The kinds of things students are concerned about: do I get to find a learning community, the answer is yes. We will do that in hybrid form, some face-to-face. In small groups with social distance like Phil Reid just said. Freshman interest groups, a percentage will be virtual some will gather around campus. Practicing social distancing. Advising and academic support, these are important. Will they be available? Absolutely. They will not be in small offices that are closed with no windows. We will be practicing good public policy. They will not be sitting face-to-face, we practice physical distancing, much will be virtual and online. We will have advisors accessible to you, and academic support accessible to you. Recreation opportunities and those kinds of things.

We had an undergraduate research symposium because we are known for undergraduate research on this campus. In may we moved to a virtual undergraduate research symposium, the quality of that research and engagement through our faculty and graduate students and undergraduates, together, did not change a bit, the quality was exceptional.

The way we deliver that will change. You can expect, when you can't come to campus, it will feel different, it will still be active and alive, we will orient you and engage you. One thing we do at the start of the quarter, thousands of students to a big picnic and a big welcome. We bring our President over and we form a big 'W' with thousands of students and put the President in the middle of that W. It won't be a physical W like that.

We do a lot of hand-to-hand orientation. We won't do that this year. But we will be doing peer-to- peer engagement, you will be meeting your peers, you will be welcome to campus, you will be engaged in learning communities, you will find the experience is truly a rich and distinct experience.

I want to say something else. I want to send a message to the new students and returning students. We also recognize how unique this moment is in history. And knowing full well that when you come here , that you will be a part of history, and some of my colleagues who are historians, one of them is here, reminds us that some of the work you do today is going to be a contribution to the history of 2020. The history of the University of Washington. I will be teaching a freshman seminar on this. Around the pandemic, around race in America, around the economy right now, and also as we come into November, we come to an election season, what does it mean for some of you to vote for the first or second time?

This is an important, historic time. The campus will feel different, our mission will be very much the same. Denzil, I don't know if you want to say something about registered students organizations and the kinds of opportunities for students as well.

Denzil Suite: I'm happy to. Let me just briefly say, registered student organizations, that's RSOs for those of you who do not know the UW lingo, RSOs , they will continue that experience. We know that the out of classroom experiences are critical factors in student success and growth. All RSOs will be able to remain active and have access to student activities office, as well as the student activities office advisors both in-person and remotely.

For those of you out there who are officers in an existing RSO please do make plans with the student activities office to register for the autumn quarter. We will allow and have some in-person meetings and events, if they comply with the restrictions on gatherings, but regardless, we encourage all students to get involved in some sort of student organization, we also encourage our faculty and staff to serve as advisors to these groups.

Jack Martin: thank you. I would like to stay with you for a moment, Vice President Suite. You mentioned some facilities, Dean Taylor did as well. We have been receiving questions around facilities. How will they operate in the fall term? Can you share what the plans are for things like the libraries, recreation facilities, other centers of community on campus? And workout and recreation facilities?

Denzil Suite: Happy to do that. Most of our offices and facilities will be open for, I guess, limited in-person interactions at the start of the quarter. The student union, again, for those of you who are new, we affectionately call that the HUB. It anticipates being open, while offering some of their services remotely as well.

Our recreational facilities such as the IMA workout facilities, basketball and others, are planning a phased reopening of facilities. And in fact, we've already seen a partial reopening of the waterfront activity center where you can go rent a kayak, and experience lake Washington, and from my perspective the most critical of all, the golf driving range is now open at 50% capacity. And that will bring my skills up to 25%, but that's a different town hall. We are also planning to offer in-person and remote fitness classes. There will be activities, we will follow public health guidance, which you can plan on entering some of our more iconic facilities and facilities dedicated to your health.

Libraries continue and will provide a range of remote services and learning opportunities for students, staff, and faculty including, 24/7 chat services. They offer interlibrary loans for electronic materials and research consultations through zoom. While they cannot open in Phase 2, they are assessing what Phase 3 operations will look like. The bottom line here is that when you come to campus, there will be access to the facilities you have come to know and rely on.

Jack Martin: Thank you. Vice Provost Reid I want to turn to the question of tuition and fees. A number of students and families have asked if there will be any changes to tuition or fees this fall, either for students not participating in in-person instruction or for out-of-state students who are not returning to campus and will be studying remotely? Can you speak to that?

President Cauce: Jack, why don't you let me take that question. It might be more appropriate for me to take it. First of all, I really want everyone to know that we recognize that students, parents and quite frankly our faculty, prefer in-person. It's kind of lonely here without having the students here. And we plan to return in the fall to as much in-person as is possible in a safe manner. And we really look forward to having 100% in-person as soon as that is possible. That is something we all want.

I also think it's important to recognize that the University of Washington's world-class faculty and instructors bring absolutely the same expertise, experience, knowledge, and passion to the remote classroom as they do to the in-person classroom. In fact, I have been so impressed by the creativity, ingenuity, and enormous amount of work that they have put into bringing these courses remotely. It is harder to do this remotely that it is one-on-one. And our faculty has been working incredibly, incredibly hard. And whether in-person or online, a university of Washington education, the educators remain the same.

And your degree has the same value. The hybrid approach means you will have access to as many in-person courses as possible, prioritizing courses for hands-on is an essential part of learning. For example our performance courses, our lab-based courses, we also hope that our out-of-state students will return to campus as well. We will be offering the same value.

And for out-of-state students, as a reminder, the fact that you are paying higher tuition is not a reflection of whether a course is online, or whether it is in-person, it reflects the difference because our in-state students, their state taxes are going to support their ability to be here at a lower price. I also want to remind you all that the university of Washington time and time again is at the very top of the list of whether it is best bang for the buck, or best value. We are a bargain whether in-person or remote.

Jack Martin: Thank you, President Cauce. Dean Williamson-Lott, I want to return to a topic of our graduate and our professional students. First with a question that we received about how changes to autumn quarter are likely to affect graduate student employment?

Joy Williamson-Lott: Thanks, I want to say hello everyone, I'm glad to be here. The graduate school and I look forward to welcoming you, or welcoming you back to the fall quarter, whether that is remote, in-person, or both. It does not matter, we have lots of resources and programming that can support you in your academic journey so we can be partners in that. Please don't be a stranger.

The question about student employees, lead postdoctoral researchers, a question about appointments and what that means for the fall, but I can tell you is that you speaking directly to you, you received and accepted an offer for the fall, those offers will be honored. What might change is the nature of the work that you might have to do. Things are ever-changing, perhaps what you were supposed to be doing now has to be remote, so the job description might change for you. But what will not change is compensation or if you were offered a tuition waiver, or benefits. Those things remain the same. The job might be different, but the offer that you've accepted and the benefit and tuition waiver and compensation with it remains the same.

Jack Martin: Thank you. Graduate students obviously research is a huge portion of what they are doing here, can you also discuss how the changes to the fall term will affect their ability to conduct that research?

Joy Williamson-Lott: Sure. This is a big question. I want to start with reminding us that research at the university of Washington never stopped. We've had laboratories, and equipment, and materials that need attending to, many of our graduate students and postdoctoral scholars have been working with our faculty on very important COVID-19 related research. That research continues and we have other graduate students whose research has continued because there access to materials or data was not impacted during the crisis.

Obviously, there's been research needed to be put on hold. The way we ramp up that part of our research enterprise is by marrying it to and taking cues from the governor's office, particularly with this phased start, we are in Phase 2. Matching it to the governor's phases as well as taking from public health officials on how to keep everyone safe. In Phase 2, in-person research is possible, and so we are ramping back up that part of our research enterprise. You can expect to be back in your spaces, however, there will be regulations and restrictions on it, health and safety is our priority, you've heard this as a theme throughout this town hall.

If you're going to be working in a lab those labs are required to come up with disinfecting schedules, rotating lab schedule so not so many people in the lab at the same time. You will be required to wear personal protective equipment, those types of things. For students who are involved in field research, it will be similar kinds of requirements there to protect everyone. We will be ramping this back up in the fall. I'm hoping that you will be able, as long as we are in Phase 2 in the fall, to be able to start to realize our full potential in the area of research. To work with things before I turn it back to you, Jack.

One of the big questions I get from doctoral students who are doing this, they are very worried about what that this pause has meant for their academic careers, their forward momentum, their progress. And the biggest piece of advice I can give you is to stay in contact with your faculty mentors, your principal investigators, they are best positioned to help you think through how best to realize your research goals, whether changing your methodology, perhaps changing your data sets, looking at your data in a different way, they are best positioned to help you continue with your forward progress.

And second, health and safety is our first priority. And so no research personnel including graduate students and postdoctoral scholars can be compelled to return to their labs or there in-person work or into the field. Health and safety is a first priority. We have messaged PIs, principal investigators and faculty mentors about that, and they know that they are expected to make accommodations when necessary. Yet another reason to reach out to your faculty members and PIs.

Jack Martin: Thank you. Vice President Suite, President Cauce mentioned in her opening remarks the outbreak in the houses on Greek Row, what sort of policies and measures will be in place to keep fraternities and sororities safe this fall and how will those be able to be enforced?

Denzil Suite: Thank you for that. I do know President Cauce spoke some about this, let me reinforce that our chapters and the inter-fraternity counsel are taking this extremely seriously. And they work cooperatively with the UW and with king county public health during this outbreak. I do commend students on quickly getting tested, as you heard President Cauce say, 1600 students got tested in just a few days. And I've also been impressed with the degree to which they have been following quarantine protocols.

We immediately, after this outbreak happened, we were having regular meetings and interactions with the Greek community, they work with us in terms of developing protocols for individuals who may have been affected, to stay in the rooms, to get food delivered to their doors, and to create isolation protocols that slow the spread of this disease, of this outbreak. We will continue to work with them to ensure safe practices, distancing, and also, helping develop reduced capacity guidelines. I would say the bottom line, is that no one is hurt more by an outbreak in the Greek community than the community itself. So they are committed to working with us to ensure this is not repeated.

Jack Martin: Thank you. President Cauce, earlier this week, department of homeland security announced that it was going to require international students to be enrolled in in-person instruction in order to stay in the U.S. you had a blog post critical of that announcement. How is the UW responding to this and what guidance do you have for international students?

President Cauce: First of all, I want to repeat that, I think that I speak not just for myself but for practically every leader of higher education across the country, is that this new ruling is a real slap in the face, in fact it's cruel and callous to students who are bringing an incredible richness to the learning experience of all of us, if anything, this pandemic has shown us that borders only go so far. And that everything is global. And so being able to give all of our students a global learning experience is absolutely positive for all of us. And so I want to be very clear about just how awful this is.

I also want to point out that the changes are not just, they are not yet final. And we are right now working with our state congressional delegation and federal officials to understand and to see how we might be able to change these rules. And so we are actively participating in that. I'm also in the process of having discussions with our attorney

general's office to see if it makes sense for us to join some of the lawsuits that are out there, or whether we should be pressing our own. That is very much an active conversation.

I can also tell you that we are in the process, and Vice President Reid has a very- he's spending a lot of time on this, making sure that we create in-person classes so that our international students can take in-person classes, that are important. I'm not talking about sham classes, I'm talking about real classes that will add to their learning experience and that will lead to degree process. We have now reached out to all of our international students, and asked them to please contact us so that we can work with them individually so that we can better understand how it is that we can help assure that they are getting the coursework that they need to be able to stay here.

I want to say to all of our international students, we stand with you, and we will be fighting for you and fighting with you, to make sure that you can stay and complete your education, and help make this learning environment better for all of us.

Jack Martin: Great, thank you. I want to stay on the topic of international students. And turn to you Vice Provost Reid. We've had a number of questions about whether the university will be able to make any accommodation, such as through partnership with a local university overseas, to create hubs where students could learn remotely in the same location. Is the UW considering any such arrangement?

Phil Reid: That suggestion came in earlier and it is really clever. For the folks who submitted that idea, thank you. I took that idea to my colleagues in global affairs and what we are going to do is reach out to some international institutions, and universities. Where we have existing partnerships to explore this idea and see how it might work. One of the challenges might be, everybody is dealing with the pandemic. Their operations other universities may or may not allow for the creation of these hubs. We are going to explore that idea. For those of you who suggested it, thank you for that suggestion.

Jack Martin: Thank you. President Cauce, a number of staff and faculty have asked: how will the UW provide support or accommodations for employees who are parents or caregivers if K-12 schools do not reopen for in-person instruction?

President Cauce: First of all, we don't know exactly what is going to happen in K-12 schools, but we have to begin now planning for the possibility, it has been incredibly difficult for any of our faculty involved in remote instruction, and you can just imagine how much more difficulty it is when you are teaching your child as well as teaching courses. I want to recognize how incredibly difficult this is.

I also want to let people know that we have formed, we are in the process of forming a task force that will be headed up by a director of work life and that will include representation from not just faculty, but also our postdocs, our graduate students, undergraduate students, to work together to see how we can better address this issue. I think it's important to point out that also, it is not affecting everyone equitably. And what I mean by that, yes, in some cases, we have caretakers who are fathers, etc., but that primarily, this caretaking duty, and not just for children, in some cases it is for family members that might be sick and have COVID, it does disproportionately on women.

I'm actually part of the national academies of science and engineering committee on women in science, and we are very concerned about how this might affect the career trajectory of women just as they are moving up the ranks into full professors, etc. And we will be talking about how we can extend the tenure clock on how we can take that into account. So I know that I cannot give you assurance that we are going to make everything perfect, this is a problem

that is facing not just faculty and staff here at the university, but all across the country. In professions, whether at university or not.

We will be working with you, we have also reached out to our supervisors, and in some cases for staff, that is a supervisor for faculty that's more likely a chair and asked them to be as compassionate and flexible as possible. This is something that we are concerned about, this is something that we are actively working on. And we will do our best to support our faculty and our staff who are caretaking during this difficult time.

Jack Martin: Great. Thank you. I want to go to a question that has been emailed in while we have been live. I'll ask this of Vice Provost Reid. Is the university planning to go all online instruction or close after Thanksgiving as some universities have done in changing their academic calendars?

Phil Reid: The answer is, the short answer is, we are going to run the standard academic calendar, there will be instruction after Thanksgiving. We will not be going all remote. The reason for this is, unlike a lot of schools making this choice are semester schools and a lot of the instruction has occurred already in the semester school before Thanksgiving. We are a quarter school and we start September 30th so it's a short duration of time between then and Thanksgiving, in order to run the courses as it should be at have all the instruction occur, we are going to run the academic program and have instruction after Thanksgiving. It's just difficult to do that for a quarter school.

President Cauce: If I might also add, that for a semester school, the Thanksgiving break as an entire week. For people to leave for a week and come back is very different. We have a much shorter Thanksgiving break.

Jack Martin: Thank you both. Vice President Suite, housing is a hot topic. Many students have asked about on-campus housing if they decide not to come back to campus for autumn quarter but would maybe want to come back in winter quarter or spring, can students who decline housing for the fall retain their eligibility and rooming options for the winter and spring quarters?

Denzil Suite: Thank you for that question. I know housing is a hot topic. Let me start by saying, that we anticipate being able to house all of the students who may need to live on campus, and many have already confirmed with us the desire to live with us in the fall. As a reminder, most of our housing includes double rooms with private baths. And in areas, with more shared restrooms, we are de-densifying those facilities and placing one student per room with enhanced cleanings of public spaces and restrooms.

We will be offering increased grab and go options for dining, which includes eliminating soup and salad bars, with items that are now prepackaged such as soups and salads so you can take those with you. Dining staff has historically practiced industry-leading safety and food handling and that will continue.

To the question specifically, if students do choose to cancel their housing application, they will not be charged as long as they cancel by this coming Sunday which is July 12. Students who cancel will be able to reapply for the winter quarter, and for the next academic year, 2021-2022. And they will retain their returning resident priorities. I will also say that given the time limitations the situation has caused, new students will be getting their housing assignment notifications beginning in mid-August.

As you can imagine, because of the many uncertainties due to COVID-19, our housing team is making up-to-the-minute changes based on the best public health recommendations.

Jack Martin: Thank you. I'm going to go to another question that has been emailed, around scholarships and financial aid so I think Vice Provost Reid, I will send this to you first. Will the changes for autumn quarter have any impact on scholarships or financial aid?

Phil Reid: My answer to that would be, no. Essentially we are going to be supporting our students with financial aid and scholarships, per usual. I would say that we do a substantial amount of financial aid through essentially, the Husky Promise. To make sure that students have the resources they need to attend the University of Washington. We also, I would also say I understand for some families, clearly, their financial situation has changed because of COVID and if that is changed I encourage them to contact the Office of Student Financial Aid so we can't readdress their situations. And see if there might be more aid available for that was first identified when they submitted their financial aid information. And the third thing we've done in response to COVID is to create an emergency financial aid fund. That is to provide immediate funds to students that are facing a crisis where money will basically help them for example it could be rent, or it could be technology or something like that. In response to COVID we have created new forms of financial aid to support students in some difficulties created by the pandemic.

Jack Martin: Great, thank you. I will also note there is an employee emergency fund available for UW faculty and staff who have been impacted by the pandemic. And also thank the many people across the university who have donated to that fund to help their colleagues. President Cauce, I want to turn another email question to you, which is that we have a lot of Husky Athletics fans who are watching, questions around the fall sports schedule are obviously top of mind, what can you tell us about plans for football and other fall sports?

President Cauce: I know that people are interested in this question. Quite frankly things are very much up in the air. In fact about a half hour after this town hall, we will be having a zoom meeting of all the Presidents in the Pac-12. I want to remind people that the Pac-12 is arguably right up with the Ivy League in terms of its very strong academic credentials. Our partners in the Pac-12 include Stanford, Berkeley, UCLA, absolutely top universities. And we are putting our student athletes first as we make these decisions.

Just like students want to come back, our student athletes who are students very much they want to come back, they want to play, they want to compete. And we have been bringing them back to start preparing in large part because quite frankly, it is safer for them to be working out here, where they can be supervised by trainers, etc. than doing this on their own. Any decisions that we make will be made with safety first, we have one of the strongest groups of public health officials, including some of our own faculty in biology and public health, consulting with us, on what is safe and what is not.

Right now the whole range of options is open, there may be a possibility of just doing in conference play, we just play within the Pac-12. It may be possible that we end up suspending play. Everything is on the table, and we are taking it a step at a time. And we will let you know as we know more.

Jack Martin: Thank you. Another question emailed in about study abroad, Vice Provost Reid I'll direct this to you as well. What impacts will there be on the study abroad? There are a number of travel restrictions. Around the country in the world right now. What options are there for study abroad in the intermediate term?

Phil Reid: Study abroad is not my area of expertise, I can't say that with travel bans and travel restrictions, to be honest, it is curtailed the amount of study abroad opportunities we can offer the fall. Again, we are thinking about the programs, we follow CDC guidelines. We follow the travel bans and advisories they provide. And we make decisions with the safety of our students first and foremost about if we can offer study abroad programs in a safe fashion. And right now I would say given the travel bans, given the issues with the pandemic, there are significant impacts to the extent of study abroad that we will offer in the fall. It's unfortunate.

President Cauce: If I can add to that, I was recently a part of a conference with Asia-Pacific Rim universities, that includes both American universities on the west coast, and those in Asia, and we are working together to see if we can put together I don't want to call them exactly virtual study abroad, but they are kind of like that, we can put together some courses where students from the U.S. participate together with students and other places, so that they can learn more and get more of that kind of cultural experience. We are looking at are there some creative ways that we can provide some of that study abroad experience without actually having students get on planes and go to other countries.

Jack Martin: Thank you both. We have a number of questions via email, around what qualifies as in-person and/or not, Dean Williamson-Lott I ask this question. Will rotations for a PhD program qualify as in-person instruction?

Joy Williamson-Lott: I suspect this is from someone in a particular program. What I would suggest they do is make sure they are in contact with the department chair and the dean of that program. But I can tell you is that many of our programs have accreditations, and accrediting agencies have been making exceptions which is because of what happened in the spring, and different institutions. And so sometimes, like in dentistry, you want your dentist to have practiced in someone's mouth. And so we have programs whether it's accreditations making exceptions or programs being very creative in how they go about making sure that whether it is rotations, or professional experience, is able to happen. Again, this is towards ensuring forward progress for students. That it is really at the local level, the local department or college level, where these decisions are being made, and the Dean of the department chair of that unit for the person who asked the question would be best positioned to answer the question about how to make sure that what you are doing, to rotations, or those professional experience, how that counts toward your graduation.

President Cauce: If I might add, I have to say that our state has been wonderful partners in this. We have talked to them when we had issues, for example, in pharmacy and dentistry, and they have been fabulous about creating guidelines that allow our students to progress, because we need the students to graduate and be part of the workforce. If a question comes from a student on an F1 visa, an international student, and what they were wondering about is will this meet guidelines? Again, you received a letter yesterday with a phone number and email to call, please call in because we will work with you and make sure that what you are taking meets guidelines.

Jack Martin: Thank you. About four minutes left in our town hall. A couple of questions here that have come in regarding housing. And Vice President Suite I direct this to you, local students ask if they can get on-campus housing or if out-of-state students are being prioritized for that?

Denzil Suite: Good question. We welcome you all. Yes, local students still can get housing with us. Early on in our planning, in a planning process, we were wondering how we would potentially prioritize our housing, at this point it seems that we will be able to house everyone who is looking to live on campus with the starting in the fall.

Jack Martin: Excellent, thank you. Another question is, if a roommate get sick, does the other student automatically have to quarantine as well?

Denzil Suite: If the roommate get sick, we actually have some separate isolation spaces, if they have a confirmed case. The student who may not at this point have tested positive will have some degree of isolation, but that will be based on the recommendations from our public health officials. And they will make individual determinations with the students.

Jack Martin: Great. Thank you. We have time for one more, Dean Williamson-Lott is a question about the GRE requirement, will it be in place for programs considering that it is more difficult right now to find places to take it?

Joy Williamson-Lott: At the graduate school we don't have a policy on requiring the GRE, is a different academic units and departments that require it. And I do know at the academic and department level there are units making choices, you look at other measures, of how a student would be able to do as a graduate student at the University of Washington.

Especially for our international students getting access to GRE testing centers has been difficult. I would encourage you to reach out to our international student office, they have information, I know, you could reach out to the graduate school also, we have information about how to help our graduate students are possible graduate students take this GRE in their home countries, there are a variety of online options another kind of testing options available. We have resources that we can direct you to, if you are an international student, with regard to the GRE, more generally, is at the local level, we do know that units are making accommodations because it has been so hard for students to get access to the test.

Jack Martin: Great. Thank you. That is all the time that we have. I want to remind our viewers that if you missed part of the broadcast, you can watch a replay at www.uw.edu/President/townhall, you can also find many answers to questions about COVID-19 and the universities response to the pandemic at www.uw.edu/coronavirus. You will find links to resources for students, employees, recent updates, as well as information on upcoming webinars by UW faculty and details on how UW experts are contributing to the fight against the coronavirus. Thank you to all of our panelists and to all of you watching, and especially to everyone who submitted a question, stay safe, and go Huskies.