

Subject: Monthly Update - May 4, 2020

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From: Rai, Sanjay K

To: Rockville Faculty{FT&PT}, Germantown Faculty{FT&PT}, Takoma Park Faculty{FT&PT}, Academic Affairs Staff and Administrators

Colleagues –

Today is the first day of the two-week period that we are calling *assistance and assessment*. Last week, I shared some of the alternatives that will be implemented. I look forward to learning what was tried and what you learn throughout these weeks. What is being done out of necessity this spring may define new and best practices in semesters to come.

Registration for summer classes opened one week ago. At the time we had to build the schedule, there were many unknowns. I will share with you that I had some concerns. Last week registration for summer opened on Monday, and by Tuesday, average seat utilization was 56.7%, with [48 courses](#) (select *Data and Reports*, MyMC login required) that were over 70% full. By Friday, we had added sections and the average seat utilization was 72.8%, with [77 courses](#) over 70% full. Now my concern is that we should be offering more. What a great vote of confidence this is from our students who are only being offered online classes in the first session. Of course, many students have taken online courses in past summers, but we will look at the data to see how many had their first online or remote learning experience this spring and now know that they can be successful in this format. Deans and chairs will continue to monitor enrollment and add sections where appropriate.

This bodes well for the fall despite the many unknowns about opening the College. While we continue to monitor conditions in the County and State, and adhere to their guidelines, summer enrollment provides an important indicator of student interest going forward. I am encouraging all faculty to be prepared to teach in both face-to-face and structured remote modalities. With that thought in mind, ELITE is continuing to offer [remote professional development](#) for faculty in Blackboard Essentials, Blackboard Collaborate, and other relevant modules. Many of you are already enrolled. ELITE is also developing a Summer Institute (website will be active by the end of the week), which will include these trainings as well. Please take advantage of these opportunities. In March, we had no choice but to transition rapidly to emergency remote teaching and learning. With several months to prepare, and the agility to respond to the environment at the time, we will offer the fall schedule with health, safety, and MC excellence in mind.

Withdrawal is another issue that has been of concern. I am so pleased to share that one week after offering the Withdrawal in Crisis (WC) option, only 15 students to-date have chosen this path. This number may increase, but I am encouraged by this low initial figure. In general, the number of [withdrawals](#) remains low - approximately 42% less than the same time period last year. This is another marker of our success that I attribute to your phenomenal and tireless work on behalf of our students. The 892 [virtual tutoring sessions](#), a weekly high, represents an increase of 25.8% for last week. Students are getting the message that support is available. Please remind them, as we work through the final two weeks of the semester, that help is one click away [link](#). Please visit the [Dashboard](#) for additional data.

I am so encouraged and hopeful about our summer and fall sessions, and whatever the next few months hold for us as an institution. We – you – our students – are the institution. Just look at what we have done in a very short time. Students still need us – MC is a safety net in so many ways. They know their faculty care about them. They know that they can find support outside of the classroom. To students from other institutions who had to return to Maryland, interrupting their spring semester, we offer an opportunity to fill academic

gaps, or an opportunity to remain in Maryland this fall without sacrificing a semester.

As we work to conclude this semester and focus on summer and fall in this very dynamic and unpredictable time, I find my optimism in your continued commitment to our students and their success.

Please join the Spring Closing meeting on Friday at 10 am.

Be well. Stay safe.

Sanjay