

## Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate April 12, 2022

- 1. Focus on Campus Re-Engagement:** I would like to establish a working group to discuss and plan for mechanisms to increase engagement across campus in the upcoming year. As noted in our First Monday email, Mays Imad has written powerfully about [trauma-informed teaching](#) and [faculty support and development](#). This may be a good framework within which to begin our discussions. We will seek input from the Faculty Senate on representatives to this campus-wide working group. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 2. Yik Yak** is an app that allows for users to 'anonymously' post comments received by others within a 5-mile radius. As with other social media platforms, there are downsides to its use including hate speech. The SGA is considering a recommendation to request that this app be banned from campus. This [recent article in Inside Higher Ed](#) summarized the challenges associated with Yik Yak and attempts to ban it. **FS Action Requested: None at this time beyond becoming familiar with the challenges of social media and free speech. It may be useful to hold a forum on these issues next academic year.**
- 3. Fall Break:** The Faculty Senate expressed interest in data on the impact of a Fall Break on the mental health and well-being of campus community members. The limited evidence I have been able to find suggests the impacts are not clear (e.g., [this study](#)). **FS Action Requested: Given the planning that is required to restructure the academic calendar, I ask that the FS consider establishing or participating in a committee next year to investigate the pros and cons of fall breaks.**
- 4. Grad Walk 2022:** The Grad Walk schedule is available [here](#). Faculty will be invited to attend Grad Walks for students in their programs. A celebratory video is also under development with student speakers from each school and the CHHS (Clarke Honors and a graduate student among them). **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 5. FY22 Budget (\$79,073,854):** We anticipate finishing the FY22 cycle well within budget and have been able to move forward with some additional equipment purchases and facilities renovations. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 6. FY23 Budget (\$80,228,873):** Units were asked to submit FY23 personnel estimates in order to more realistically allocate 03 budgets. That process is on-going with goal of finalizing budgets by mid-May. The increase in the FY23 budget reflects the January and July merit and COLA increases. The University receives State funding for these (typically for PIN but not all employees) which is then proportionally allocated among divisions. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**

**7. Enrollment Projections for Fall 2022:** The Weekly Enrollment Update indicated a 14% increase in First-Year students but an 18% and 11% decline in transfer and graduate students, respectively, compared to same date last year. Overall, our projected new student enrollment at this point looks to be ~5% higher than projected on the same date last year. April 9<sup>th</sup> was the second Admitted Students Day and is expected to host more than 600 students and their families. We expect an enrollment bump after this event. Thanks to everyone who supports our enrollment management goals (recruitment and retention of undergrads, graduate students, and students taught at satellite sites and online). **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**

**8. COVID Questions & Answers:** Seem to be continuing to trend in the right direction, but there are increases in cases in several areas, including Washington D.C. For the week ending on 4/8/22 (Tuesday to Monday), the weekly positivity rate was less than 0.2% (N=1,133). Please note that testing is now largely of individuals with symptoms or exemptions (so not a representative sample).

- Two Academic Affairs employees are currently reported as Not Cleared for a medical reason.
- We encourage good mask etiquette of all (e.g., if others ask you to wear a mask, please do).
- KN95 masks continue to be required in instructional/high density settings and are available at the GSU information desk.

**FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**