



February 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

As we consider academic delivery for fall the semester of 2021-22, it's helpful to review the overarching elements that have influenced our planning from the start of the pandemic. Answers to the following questions have guided our work:

- What learning outcomes can only be achieved through in-person instruction?
- Can we deliver these outcomes safely? If so, how?
- How do we deliver the remaining outcomes satisfactorily in remote instruction? What is needed?
- Can we have in-person, residential students on campus and keep our community safe? If so, what precautions must be in place?

Answers to these questions—arrived at collaboratively and in dialogue with colleagues across the campus—have served to keep our students on track while keeping our community safe.

Impossible as it seems, however, we anticipate yet a fourth semester navigating the effects of the pandemic. As result, similar questions will advance our efforts to engage our students while being mindful of COVID-19. Most pressingly, as we look ahead to fall '21, we will need to account for time many students have been learning in remote. Consequently, the following questions will help guide us:

- Which populations of students need some in-person to optimize their time at Purchase by fall '21?
- Can we innovate strategies (e.g. dual delivery, short residency programs, evening-enabled courses, etc.) that keep students, staff, and faculty safe but accommodate additional students in face-to-face delivery?
- How can we improve or vary remote deliveries to enhance our students' experiences?

Answers to these questions will help us to understand the potential number of additional students in need of in-person instruction. This analysis will assist us to imagine the innovations or adjustments we might employ to engage the diverse students looking at a fourth semester (potentially $\frac{1}{2}$ their college experience) under the most drastic effects of the pandemic. Clearly, our concerns are for all our students. But it is important to recognize that the students in the humanities and social sciences have been remote so far for the entire time.

Assumed in our calculation is that the areas currently using face-to-face will need about the same number of in-person seats to continue their programs—for instance, in dance, theatre, A&D, music, and film.

Lastly, a word about vaccines: While having more people vaccinated will make us safer, the current rates of immunization may not enable us to safely bring back everyone to campus for in-person classes or to live in our residence halls by fall '21. Remember (as we are seeing): it is not clear that vaccines prevent contracting the viruses. While they decrease COVID-19 effects, they don't eliminate them all together. Further, it is not clear that the vaccines eliminate the transmission of the virus.

All of these factors, and many we cannot yet foresee, will necessitate continued dialogue, collaboration, and innovation.

Upcoming Spring Award Deadlines

Chancellor's Awards for Excellence: For all other categories, the deadline is February 16, 2021; the call for nominations will be issued by the respective peer review committee.
Jewish Studies Faculty Award March 30, 2021

Neuberger Museum of Art

The Neuberger will begin a phased reopening beginning the week of February 22 in order to support in-person, course-related activities. **In-person visits will be by appointment only.** For more information and to schedule a visit, please contact [Kristen Lindberg](#) at least one week in advance of the day you would like to visit and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Installations of exhibition projects drawn from our collection are rolling out over time. Kristen will be able to provide information on what would be on view at the time of your requested visit. Meanwhile we will also continue to produce virtual content to support the entire campus community. Please be on the lookout for those opportunities.

www.neuberger.org

Performing Arts Center

Full steam ahead to 2021 at The PAC

Despite the fact that the doors been closed to the public since March 2020, The PAC remains a key player in the lives of our campus and greater communities.

Today, ably managed by PAC staff, the theatres operate as safe learning spaces for our students, while the lobby has been converted to a hub for campus COVID testing.

But that's not all. The PAC continues in its role as a presenter of a broad range of arts events – virtually – by creating content that inspires, engages, and sparks critical conversations through [The PAC in Your Living Room](#) initiative.

Thanks to the support of donors, The PAC will be able to expand this initiative to offer a series of virtual field trips and dance events this spring. The events will include pre-recorded performances, livestreamed talk backs, and Zoom-based residencies for our audiences, K-12 classrooms, and Purchase students.

The line-up for the virtual field trips includes K-12 audience favorites like Black Violin and Dr. Kaboom; the dance series will feature Limon Dance Company, Heginbotham Dance, and Victor Quijada's RUBBERBAND.

Keep an eye on your purchase.edu email for event details, and be sure to visit The PAC website www.artscenter.org and follow @PurchasePAC on social media for the most up-to-date information.