



DARE TO DO MORE

Dear LaGuardia faculty and staff,

I hope you all had a good holiday weekend and are a bit rested as we enter the final weeks of what has been a challenging year. This is our second Return to Campus update.

Important Dates: The Town Hall on Friday, June 4, at 2 PM, will provide an opportunity to address many of the questions that have been raised as we prepare for our return to campus. You can register and submit your questions here. We have already received more than 20 questions relating to our return. If we are unable to address your questions at the Town Hall be assured, they will get a response.

The Big Issue: Here is our conundrum: While some students are doing well with fully online courses, 58% of our continuing students want in-person or hybrid classes this fall. We can assume an even larger proportion of incoming students, particularly those who have spent much of high school learning online, will want to take classes on campus. Our academic chairs, working with faculty, have been able to schedule 22% of class sections as in-person or hybrid. Clearly, that is nowhere near what our students desire. Moreover, I fear it will exacerbate our enrollment crisis. Without a robust schedule of in-person and hybrid classes our enrollment will further erode. We cannot attract students to LaGuardia if more than three-quarters of our classes are online.

For these reasons, and consistent with the Chancellor's earlier announcement about return to campus, I ask that LaGuardia faculty please work with their chairs to achieve a goal of having at least 60% of our fall classes in-person or hybrid. Faculty should expect to hear from department chairs in the coming days. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

In-Person and Remote Work: At the May 26 College Senate meeting a resolution was adopted (http://laguardia.edu/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Divisions/AA/College_Senate/docs/Senate-Resolution-Staff.pdf) asking the President to, "guarantee equity, fairness, and transparency in the return of staff to campus." I could not agree more with the sentiment of this resolution. In addition, the Senate, "urges all LaGuardia supervisors to assess the real need for staff to be on campus for maintaining effectiveness in carrying out of duties, and to grant flexible work schedules and remote work to staff for reasons beyond the CUNY's reasonable accommodation requests." Finally, the resolution recommends that the Senate Committee on Staff and Alumni be consulted on the staff's return to campus. I spoke out in support of the resolution and will seek to achieve the equity, fairness, and transparency the Senate seeks.



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Executive Director Ron Edwards and his Human Resources team are preparing materials and training for managers to understand and administer the CUNY Flexible Work Guidelines, including Flexible Work Arrangements, Remote Work Guidelines and Reasonable Accommodation Requests. At our Cabinet meeting this morning Ron laid out his plans, beginning with the preparation of materials for staff and managers, and training and information sessions that will begin on June 14. I have asked Ron to consult with labor representatives and governance in preparation of the materials and the training.

Campus Facilities and Safety: The Return to Campus Operational Task Force is now reviewing and updating the College's Reopening Plan. With vaccination rates increasing, infection rates plummeting (thank goodness), and public health guidelines evolving, their work is complex. We also know that as more students, faculty, and staff come to campus we will need to ensure that we have streamlined processes to safely move people in and out of our buildings.

Vaccinations: Get vaccinated. It is easy, safe and quick. Find out more and make an appointment at VaxUpCUNY.

Best wishes,

Kenneth Adams
President