**Return to Campus Task Force**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Meeting Notes

1. **Follow-ups/old business**
   * Last Friday, we went through the modified equitable decision-making framework and decided to share information about our deliberations with the Executive Team regarding the mask mandate
   * David and Tara shared that information with the Executive Team, to help inform their decision – recommendation from the Executive Team was to follow OHA’s guidance, starting March 19 (after winter term ends) – Tara send out all staff email today to inform the college community of the decision
   * Tom shared a concern with one line in the email, encouraging people to wear masks when they are sick – are we eliminating the self-health check? That line leaves it open for people to come to work when they’re not well – David said that yes, the self-health check is still in place and that they would fix that miscommunication – David said that the default when you’re not feeling well is to stay home – Tara agreed, but if people do come to work, they should wear a mask – David said that we need to normalize mask-wearing
   * John asked if a student is sneezing in the classroom, are we asking them to wear a mask – David said no, masks are optional and we are not going to enforce mask wearing, but we can continue to have masks available for those that want them
   * Nora encouraged people to wear masks even if they have allergies
   * Casey discussed the ambiguity and new situations around having this mask optional decision
   * Bob asked about signage – remove the signs all together or put up signs that say mask optional? Something to consider for later
   * Casey said that there should be building a new campaign for mask optional – perhaps calling it something different – focus on the strengths of taking care of yourself – Nora suggested including on signage information about where masks are available
   * David will take these thoughts about a new campaign to Lori – interested in signage that we can keep up for the long-term
2. **Physical distancing**
   * Current physical distancing restrictions are at 6’ in most areas, except for in the case of return to campus applications that requested and approved for 3’ distancing
   * Start with a draft proposal and walk through that, using a decision-making framework similar to the one we used for the mask decision (Tara thanked Casey for leading us through this work)
   * David proposed draft language: *We will maintain distancing requirements as they were approved in the classroom in the return to campus application, but outside of classrooms, in public spaces, we will eliminate the distancing requirement*
   * Questions/comments:
     + Melissa asked about distancing requirements for office space and meeting rooms – Tara said she’s been receiving questions about campus tours, tutoring
     + Sarah said that she has heard from folks in her department they still plan on keeping the distancing they applied for – however, they also acknowledge that without mask 6’ really isn't useful or protective from the virus
     + Nora asked about instructors modifying their existing return to campus plan from 6’ to 3’ – David said to have conversation with dean
     + Melissa J asked about the OHA and CDC guidelines around physical distancing – we’ve said we’re following the public health guidelines for masking, shouldn’t we follow those guidelines for distancing too? – David said that there aren’t statewide mandates (outside of K-12) for physical distancing
     + Mark said that a lot of this is done at the classroom level – how you arrange your classroom
     + Sarah said that many courses in the science department have field trips – how do we handle distancing with those courses
   * Sarah suggested that the decision-making framework be sent to the task force, and then during the meeting we can go through it without going through it point by point
   * David said that the questions/comments being raised today can be applied to the framework – then Friday, we can see where there are holes
   * If people are used to not having to distance outside of the college, it will be difficult to enforce 6’ distancing on campus
   * Melissa P said that it might be worth instructors having conversations with their deans about what they’re comfortable with, as far as public spaces are concerned, it might not be much of an issue – we’ve heard from Chemeketa and PSU that there aren’t as many people in shared spaces on campus
   * Sue said that at a conference she and Tara went to, they provided wrist bands with different colors that defined how comfortable you were getting close to others
   * David said that we need to call out who might be more affected – people who have underlying health conditions, people who can’t be vaccinated, etc. – whatever we come up with, we need to keep in mind everybody is coming to the table with their own experiences, concerns, and limitations
   * Nora said that it is important for people to communicate to their supervisors about their comfort level and discuss solutions – communicate that we want to support everyone
   * Casey discussed how we validate those that are impacted through our communication
   * David said that the plan is to take some of what we talked about here and put it into the decision-making framework, send it out to the task force, then discuss during Friday’s meeting
3. **SU/FA scheduling**
   * Need to start communicating with departments about the intent for summer and fall
   * David said that proposal is that we would not require a return to campus application for summer and fall courses – so we really wouldn’t have any COVID-19 restrictions (masking, distancing)
   * Nora pointed out that summer schedule is due the Friday of spring break, fall schedule is due the week after – there is a timeline that we have to consider here
   * Tara asked Nora if this group came to consensus on Friday, could have conversation at March 11 Chairs & Directors Meeting
   * David said we will see what we can get done Friday – may need to schedule an additional meeting next week

The next meeting of the Return to Campus Task Force is scheduled for **Friday, March 4, 2:00-2:50 p.m.**