

Provost's Faculty Updates (sent via each college dean by e-mail)

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Sent February 26, 2021

Dear colleagues,

I hope that the semester is progressing well and that you, like me, are looking forward to spring and brighter days. I realize that words continue to be insufficient, but I am so grateful for all your hard work and continued support.

A Few Updates:

- **Supporting Students in Need:** As we have heard from students directly, from many of you, and from external and internal surveys, the COVID era has had a substantial and negative impact on the well-being of many St. John's students. A great majority report anxiety and depression about the situation and the effect it has had on their education. There are many services available through the University to help ensure that students get the support they need. A few key examples include:
 - **Our Recognizing Students in Distress Guidelines:** The [Center for Counseling & Consultation](#) recently sent an email with this subject line that provided excellent guidance on noticing students who need assistance and referring them to proper supports. Please be sure to read their ["Recognizing Students in Distress and Making a Referral" document](#) for details, and most importantly, know that you are not alone in caring for our students. Our full community is ready to work together.
 - **The Early Alert System (for undergraduates):** Use this system not only for cases where students are not performing academically, but also to let us know about any pattern of absences. That indicator can be an essential way for us to locate students and address

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larger issues. To submit an Early Alert on a student, please go to the "Detail Roster with Photo" on UIS and click "Early Alert – for Undergraduates only" link under the student's photo.

- **On-Campus Testing:** Randomized surveillance testing has been ongoing and we are pleased to announce that employees have been added to the process. In addition, we have significantly increased the amount of testing that will take place over the course of the semester.
- **Entrance Gate "Symptom Screening" Pass Review:** For the spring semester, we have moved to a system of random checks, which operate at different gates and at different times. We must still fill out the survey every day, noting that we are subject to random checks throughout the day both at the gates and while on campus.
- **Spring 2021 Final Exam/Assessment Preparation:** In my next message, I will provide more specific guidance related to this spring's final course exams/assessments. However, given that classes may need to shift to remote learning at any time, *we encourage all faculty to plan for online final assessments*, either as your primary plan or as a back-up strategy. For more information and guidance, please review the [Faculty Guide](#), which has been updated for spring 2021 (key information starts on page 14). Please also note that the undergraduate final exam schedule is available on the [website of the Office of the Registrar](#).

And a Few Reminders:

- **General COVID-19 Reminders:** We must all continue to *wear face coverings and maintain social distance whenever we are campus* except when we are alone within individual offices. This rule applies to everyone, including students, faculty, and other employees. In addition, note that nearly all on-campus gatherings—other than classes—continue to be suspended until further notice. If you have any questions, please speak with your chair or dean. In addition, we know that many students bring coffee and other beverages to class. Please remind them that masks should only be removed when taking a sip; otherwise, they must remain in place. Finally, please remember to check the "[St. John's Re-Opens](#)" [website](#), under "Key Actions for Keeping St. John's Healthy," if you are looking for other information.
- **Support for Online Student Learning:** We encourage all faculty to direct students to [Red Storm Rising](#), a short, self-paced, and asynchronous course that will provide them with tools, guidance, and tips to help them succeed in online learning environments.

Sent October 30, 2020

Colleagues,

As we move farther into the fall, I remain incredibly proud of our community. We are all well aware of the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 era, but we should take stock of what we have accomplished: in addition to dramatically changing how we teach and serve our students, we have taken extraordinary responsibility for keeping each other healthy and safe. This is a true partnership and although ongoing vigilance remains necessary, I am so grateful for all your contributions and hard work.

A Few Updates:

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- **Spring Course Formats:** As students begin to register for spring classes, I am pleased to report a substantial increase to in-person class offerings. We anticipate that 43% of undergraduate spring sections will have at least some in-person components, compared with 31% of courses this fall semester. Better still, unlike this fall, students are able to choose spring classes with course formats in mind. Put differently, they are able to choose a schedule—potentially with all online or all in-person classes, based on their needs—and will now plan accordingly. Those plans might include enrolling for on-campus housing, applying for a visa to enter the U.S. (or choosing to remain at home), booking flights, planning to quarantine in New York, and much more. As a result, in order to support our students, it is absolutely essential that we do not make changes to course formats.
- **Required Preparation for Spring Courses:** If your spring schedule includes fully asynchronous or traditional hybrid courses (which have asynchronous online components), note that you must complete the four-week [“Online Teaching Essentials” \(OTE\) certification course](#) facilitated by the [Office of Online Learning & Services](#) (OLS) before the start of the term. Unfortunately, faculty planning to take the OTE certification course in March 2021 would not qualify. In an effort to address immediate needs for spring, OLS has added an OTE cohort with a limited number of seats to be offered from 12/28/2020 to 1/24/2021, based on chairperson recommendation. Please reach out to your chair for more information. Independent of your class format(s) this spring, if you are not OTE certified, you must complete either “Canvas Instructor Training” or “Remote Pedagogy Fundamentals.” For more information, visit the [Center for Teaching & Learning website](#).
- **Remaining Fall Logistics:** In keeping with our [academic calendar](#), the vast majority of students who live in St. John’s residence halls will move out during the extended Thanksgiving recess (the week of November 23). All instruction after that break period—including any final exams and projects—must be administered online, and as a result, all on-campus touchdown spaces will be closed. Additional notes:
 - Classes on Monday, November 30 will follow a Tuesday schedule.
 - The School of Law follows a [different academic calendar](#).
 - Synchronous classes must continue to be taught in a synchronous format.
- **Student Health:** Students who either test positive for COVID-19 or who have been exposed to COVID-19 have been instructed to contact Student Health Services (SHS) first *and* to reach out to their professors for accommodation. For privacy reasons, SHS does not communicate directly with faculty members. As a result, we recommend that professors add wording into their syllabi reminding students to notify them directly if they need accommodation for illness (or any other reason). In addition, note that SHS works with IT to ensure that students exposed to COVID-19 continue to have a red campus pass (i.e., that they cannot enter campus) either for two weeks or until they have provided evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result and been medically cleared.
- **Establishment of a Venture [CLIA Laboratory](#):** As some of you may know, we are creating a clinical laboratory on the Queens Campus that will not only provide COVID-19 testing for the St. John’s community, but also for others who wish to utilize our services. The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) regulate laboratory testing, requiring clinical laboratories to

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be certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services before accepting human samples for diagnostic testing. This is a complex process as three federal agencies are responsible for CLIA: the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. I am thankful to Dr. Marc Gillespie, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean Graduate Education, Research, and Assessment for spearheading this effort. As we move forward, the CLIA laboratory will not only focus on testing needs now, but will be part of an investment in research development more broadly.

I hope you have a wonderful week-end and thank you again for all your support, contributions, and hard work.

Simon

Sent September 4, 2020

On August 28th, the governor announced metrics that Universities must follow in the decision to move classes to a completely remote modality for two weeks if they reach 100+ or 5% COVID-19 positive cases on-campus (whichever is smaller) within any given two-week window. For St. John's, this means our trigger to fully remote learning is 100 positive cases (onsite employees and students).

How will I be informed if we reach this threshold and need to move to remote modality?

In the event that we reach this threshold you will be notified by the Dean and also informed of the date when the campus will be reopened and you can safely return. You have already worked with your Dean to create your "rapid exit plans" so for the most part, you will be using them for the two weeks we are unable to be on campus. At the end of the two week period, when we return to campus, you will resume teaching your class in the same manner as how you left it – hybrid rotating or fully in-person.

What if I have heard that someone in my class has tested positive, but the university has not reached the governor's 100 person threshold for remote learning? :

As the semester progresses, we will hear of new COVID-19 positive cases on campus. However, we will need to maintain our operation before we reach the 100 person threshold, which includes our in-person and rotating hybrid classes and our on-site workforce. *Faculty should not convert in-person or hybrid rotating classes online unless they have confirmed the need to do so through the contact tracing process. In addition, all decisions should be made in consultation with their chairperson/director and Dean.* If the safety protocols are followed by students and faculty in the classroom, the risk of exposure according the NYC Dept. of Health, even if a student or the faculty member test positive, is minimal. All of our classrooms have been configured for social distancing. All HVAC systems across all buildings on all campuses are operating at the higher flow rates and with upgraded filters in compliance with CDC

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guidelines. If students and faculty wipe surfaces down before and after class, if face coverings are used properly, and we stay six or more feet apart in the classrooms, the contact tracing process would not consider anyone in these classroom to be at risk. *Everyone's vigilance in adhering to safety protocols is key.*

If the student informs you directly of a positive test result, please ask them to complete the self-reporting form if they have not already done so. It can be found at https://sju.formstack.com/forms/self_isolation_notify. Completing this form triggers the contact tracing process.

Each day, the University updates the entire community on reported cases: <https://www.stjohns.edu/stjohnsopens/campus-health-and-covid-19-monitoring/reported-cases>.

The University has also started a COVID-19 testing program. We first tested more than 400 random resident students and student athletes almost two weeks ago, followed by 356 random commuter students last week. To further expand our testing capability we are currently establishing a COVID-19 testing facility in St. Alberts Hall in partnership with a biotechnology company. This NYS-approved COVID-19 testing facility will allow testing on site with test results being available the same day to allow for rapid tracing and minimizing community spread.

Sent August 28, 2020

Colleagues,

Monday was a special and significant day for all of us. After month of hard work by the our community, we welcomed our students—many of whom walked onto our campuses full of excitement and anticipation—back to a new academic year. I am sure that, like me, you were both excited and a little nervous on Sunday night. After all, this fall semester is very different from any other. However, we have now successfully completely the first week of the fall 2020 semester with a combination of in-person, rotating hybrid, and online classes. I am so extremely grateful for all your work and contributions during the spring and summer months; this week has truly demonstrated the strength and resilience of our St. John's community.

Given all the emails and updates you have been receiving from across campus, I will keep this message as brief as possible and focus on updates since my last communication.

The latest **updates**:

- **Re-Opening Website:** We'll continue to update the new [re-opening website](#) as we have more details to share. And unlike the [Faculty Guide](#), which was designed to be static, the website will reflect feedback and advice that we receive from you and others in the community. In particular, I encourage you to review the ["Reopening Information for Faculty, Staff, and](#)

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[Administration" section](#), which includes guidance on preparing for your time on campus, if relevant. In addition, we hope that the ["Academics" section](#) serves as a useful repository for details you have received separately.

- **On-Campus COVID-19 Case Reporting:** The re-opening website also includes details on actions we will take to keep the campus safe (see the ["On-Campus Health and COVID-19 Monitoring" section](#)), as well as test results to date (see the ["Reported Cases" section](#)).
- **Ongoing Union Discussions:** We remain engaged with the unions to determine alternate procedures for items that the CBA and or/the statutes currently indicate as requiring in-person presence. We will share solutions as they are finalized.
- **University LGBTQ+ Resources:** Over the summer, colleagues from throughout St. John's created a [website with resources for the LGBTQ+ community](#), including a draft version of a new all gender/ADA restroom map. If you have suggestions for changes or additions, please reach out to Matthew Pucciarelli (pucciarm@stjohns.edu).
- **Back-to-School Memo:** Last week, I sent my annual back-to school memo to deans. In it, I ask our academic community to consider this year's plans in terms of the following:
 - Student engagement
 - Faculty development with emphasis on technology
 - Equity and Inclusion in teaching
 - Strengthening our commitment to anti-racism through action

And a few reminders:

- **Assigned Classrooms:** In order for us to remain in compliance with guidance and requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED), all classes and meetings must be held in assigned/approved areas. We appreciate your assistance in ensuring we adhere to plans submitted to NYSED for this fall, which were created to keep the community safe.
- **Course Modalities:** All classes must be offered in the format specified in UIS. Students have made important decisions based upon the time and modality of the course offerings they selected, so changes would have serious implications for the students and the University.
- **"Campus Pass Health Screening":** To keep the St. John's community healthy, we ask all faculty, students, and employees to download the "St. John's Connect" app to their smartphones ASAP. Full details on the app, the daily screening, and computer-/printer-based alternatives are available on the ["On-Campus Health and COVID-19 Monitoring" section](#) of the re-opening website (look for the "health and wellness screening" area). Notes:
 - The screening **must** be filled out each day **prior** to coming to campus.
 - Once submitted, you will receive either a "green" pass (come to campus) or a red pass (stay home or, for on-campus students, in their residence hall). Green passes will be available on the app (click on "Campus Pass" a second time, after submitted the self-screening), and will also be sent to your email as an attachment (file type: PDF).
 - **We also ask that you please also remind your students directly to download the app and that they, too, must complete this screening EACH day.**

A sincere thank you again for your hard work, commitment, and support.

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Simon

Sent August 18, 2020

Provost's Back to School Message

Overall goals for the University for the upcoming year were sent to the deans. In turn, the deans provide goals for each school/college.

Sent August 3, 2020

Dear faculty colleagues,

This past Saturday, 138 students from many U.S. states and from abroad moved into the residence halls as part of our return to campus. As you can image, this was not a typical move-in day, but it offered an early indicator of how our plan can both keep us safe and allow us to offer an in-person experience for students. Even with six feet of social distance and face coverings properly in place, the students' excitement for and commitment to the fall semester was unmistakable. It reminded me of why we all continue to work so hard for them, for their families, and for each other. I am truly grateful for each of you, for our staff and administrative colleagues, and for the expert advice—from the city, state, and partners such as New York Presbyterian-Queens—that has helped us move forward with appropriate care.

In the coming weeks, I will be sending the Provost's annual "back to school" message to your Deans that will outline my vision for the upcoming academic year. The differences between this year and every other are apparent, but my message will focus on what remains constant: how we ensure that our students are successful, firmly grounded in our Vincentian mission and values. If we consider every decision we make, however complex, through the lens of our founding ethos, we will serve our community well no matter the challenges ahead.

This Week's Updates:

- **Residence Hall Move-In & Quarantine Requirements:** Though guidance is subject to change, students arriving from [many U.S. states](#) or [from abroad](#) must complete a mandatory 14-day quarantine and provide a negative COVID test prior to arriving on campus. Please note that these quarantines apply both to students living in University housing and those living off-campus. For more information on quarantine requirements, including information about the on-campus quarantine option that is currently in progress, please visit the Office of Residence Life's "[Move-In Survival Guide](#)."

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- **Academic Calendar/Arrival Requirements:** As you know, for most programs, classes begin on Monday, August 24, and the last day to add/drop classes is Saturday, August 29. All students taking in-person or hybrid courses must be prepared to attend their on-campus classes by this week, which will require them to complete all quarantine requirements in advance. Full academic calendar information, including a link to the School of Law's calendar (which is substantially different), can be found [here](#).

And this Week's Reminder:

- **Keep Checking Email & Reviewing the Website:** We have all become familiar with the rapidly shifting nature of "COVID normal," so I'm making a special request that you continue to read your St. John's email and check our website regularly. To make that effort as straightforward as possible, we are working on a few general repositories of all guidance to date, which will include a website and Faculty Guide. In addition, each of the college deans will be in touch with our "Back to School" message within the next two weeks.

Simon Geir Møller, Ph.D.

Sent July 23, 2020

Dear faculty colleagues,

As the fall semester rapidly approaches I want to thank you for working with your chairs, Dean's offices and the Office of the Registrar to finalize the class schedule for our incoming and returning students. I realize that it was a huge undertaking to ensure that our students will have a combination of in-person, rotating hybrid and online classes for the fall semester, all within the current federal, state and local COVID-19 guidelines.

As you are aware, students have been able to view their class schedules on UIS since the 6th of July and have been finalizing their plans to come to campus for their in-person and/or their rotating hybrid classes. I ask therefore that if you have been assigned one of these classes that is scheduled to be on campus but would like to request an accommodation due to a medical reason, please contact The Office of Human Resources, Benefits Department [before the 7th of August 2020](#) so that your school or college can plan accordingly.

Again thank you for all that you continue to do for our students and University.

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Simon

Sent July 21, 2020

Colleagues,

In this time of “COVID normal,” I am often reminded of how difficult it is to make and stick to plans as decisions we make one day no longer work in light of the next day’s news. To ensure that you have the latest information on our next steps as a University—including any unanticipated twists and turns that emerge—I will keep sending regular updates as we approach the first day of fall classes, which will build on prior messages and on the [“Preparing for the Fall Semester”](#) communication. I ask for your continued patience and understanding as we respond to inevitable shifts in the pandemic’s trajectory, regulatory guidance, and needs emerging from students and colleagues.

I also appreciate that everything about this summer has been far from normal. As faculty members, during ideal times, we can take steps to separate ourselves from the day-to-day activities of the campus, focusing perhaps instead on critical research projects that form the backbone of our work. However, this summer, we have made—and will likely continue to make—extraordinary requests on your time as the semester draws near, particularly in preparation for classes that will look different from anything we have done before. I am truly grateful for your work, and I ask you to remain up to date on emails and regularly check the website to ensure that you have the most recent information.

A few updates:

- **International Student Guidance:** Particularly as signatories to an amicus brief supporting the Harvard-MIT lawsuit, we were delighted by the news that the government will revert to its March guidance related to U.S. study visas. In short, the vast majority of international students can now take a fully online course load this fall from within the U.S. The change also means that students will not need to depart the U.S. if we need to transition in-person/hybrid classes to a fully online mode. Note, however, that new students—i.e., most first-semester undergraduate or graduate students entering the U.S. for the first time this fall—still need to be registered for at least one in-person or hybrid class to qualify for U.S. study visas.
- **Technology Assistance for Students:** We recognize that students may need assistance acclimating to hybrid rotating or fully online courses. To meet that need, the Student Success in a Hybrid Learning Environment Working Group, a subcommittee of the Provost's Academic Task Force, is developing an Online Academic Success (OAS) module specifically for incoming students. The module, which will be available online prior to the fall semester, will include short video presentations by faculty members and students sharing their advice on how to succeed in a hybrid and online learning environment. Through the module, we also provide students with information on a broad range of support services available at St. John’s.
- **CTL Summer Professional Development Options:** To gear up for the fall, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has offered a full slate of development opportunities. To date, 378 faculty members have attended ten Canvas-led webinars; 209 faculty members have completed the asynchronous, self-paced “Canvas Instructor Training” course; and 102 faculty members have finished the self-paced, asynchronous “Remote Pedagogy Fundamentals” program. In addition,

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121 faculty have completed the facilitated, four-week "Online Teaching Essentials" certification course, with another 182 enrolled this month. For more information, visit the [CTL events website](#).

- **Faculty Guide:** The Provost's Academic Task Force is also working on a summary guide that will compile a full range of resources, including information on varied fall course formats, accommodating students, and supporting students who need to self-isolate over the course of the semester.

And a reminder:

- **Fall classes may need to move to a fully online mode at any time.** Though we hope to avoid changes in format, courses taught partially or fully in person will need to remain responsive to potential shifts in guidance from national, state, and/or local authorities. That shift could take place at any time—from day one onward—in the event that New York City is no longer at "phase 4" or if other health guidance requires a change. I have asked each of the deans to work with you to plan for that potentially rapid transition, so please look for messages advancing that effort.

Again, you have my sincere gratitude for everything you have done, and will continue to do, to support our students and our University.

Simon Geir Møller, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Professor Biological Sciences

St. John's University

Sent July 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As we prepare for the fall 2020 semester, I wanted to provide updates on course modality/delivery options intended to provide as many students as possible with an in-person class experience. I recognize that every form of teaching represents a huge investment of your time, and perhaps never more so than in this period of great uncertainty. And though no words are sufficient in themselves, I realize and appreciate the work you have done, and will continue to do, to get ready for the upcoming semester. With your support, we will be well-positioned to meet our students' needs independent of the pandemic's trajectory.

As you read through these details, be aware that students will receive a shorter version of this same communication by email later today, so you may hear from them in the coming days.

General Course Guidelines

To ensure that we can remain responsive, all courses should be:

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- **Ready to move fully online at any time.** Though we hope to avoid changes in format, courses taught partially or fully in person will need to remain responsive to potential shifts in guidance from national, state, and/or local authorities.
- **Sensitive to the needs of our full student body.** We are often reminded that good pedagogy is inclusive pedagogy, which ensures that all students learn and thrive, especially given our current context. Of particular concern, international students may be unable to travel due to visa/border restrictions and may therefore be unable to join synchronous sessions due to time differences. We also have an ethical and legal obligation to meet ADA requirements for students with disabilities. In both cases, including where the groups overlap, recordings of synchronous class sessions are necessary. In short, all courses—except for those offered fully in-person—must therefore offer recordings to ensure that we meet the needs of *all* our students. We understand that some faculty have understandable intellectual property concerns, which we've addressed in greater detail below.

Course Modality/Delivery Options

These formats will help us offer as many in-person sessions as possible while maintaining appropriate social distance in each classroom. In the coming weeks, you will be able to log into UIS to review your teaching schedule. You may find new course delivery options listed.

- **Fully In-Person Courses:** This mode is the most traditional. As noted above, these courses must be planned to allow a shift to fully online teaching if needed.
- **Hybrid Courses:** In previous communications, “hybrid” courses were referred to generically; however, please note that they come in two varieties:
 - Rotating Courses: This new format was developed to better reflect social distancing requirements in larger class sections. In this model, faculty members teach each session in person, but a rotating group of students attend either in person or online on a 2- or 3-week rotation (i.e., either 1 week in person/1 week online, or 1 week in person/2 weeks online). During their online weeks, students will participate in the course via a livestream and/or via a recorded lecture (see above). Your UIS schedule will indicate whether your students will be committed to a 2- or 3-week rotation cycle. We've provided the rotation calendar below.
 - Traditional Hybrid: In these courses, the faculty member and all enrolled students meet in person one day a week and online for a second weekly session.
- **Fully Online Courses:** Note that on-line courses can be delivered in synchronous or asynchronous formats.
 - Synchronous: In this format, faculty members livestream their course, at the exact day and time of their course, to remote learners while also recording lectures/sessions for student use.
 - Asynchronous: In this format, all interaction is asynchronous. If any sessions are offered synchronously, they must be recorded for student use.

Fall 2020 “Rotating Course” Calendars

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The switch dates for Rotating courses follow a 2- or 3-week schedule (as detailed above). The dates provided indicate weeks when a given group will attend in-person classes. We will be in touch again with a more thorough set of guidelines to help your ongoing preparations for the semester.

- Classes on a 2-Week Rotation:
 - "A" Weeks: August 24, September 7, September 21, October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16.
 - "B" Weeks: August 31, September 14, September 28, October 12, October 26, November 9.
 - After Thanksgiving week, all classes/exams/assessments will take place fully online.
- Classes on a 3-Week Rotation:
 - "A" Weeks: August 24, September 14, October 5, October 26, November 16.
 - "B" Weeks: August 31, September 21, October 12, November 2.
 - "C" Weeks: September 7, September 28, October 19, November 9.
 - After Thanksgiving week, all classes/exams/assessments will take place fully online.

Professional Development & IT Support

As I mentioned in my May 28 email, we are moving from Blackboard and toward Canvas as our Learning Management System. We have therefore made two courses available within Canvas for self-paced review.

- Canvas Instructor Basics: To access the course, log on (signon.stjohns.edu), then select "Canvas LMS." Once you're within Canvas, choose "Canvas Instructor Training (ModA)".
- Online Pedagogy Basics: To access the course, log on (signon.stjohns.edu), then select "Canvas LMS." Once you're within Canvas, choose "Remote Pedagogy Fundamentals (ModB)".

Please see the [Center for Teaching and Learning website](http://campusguides.stjohns.edu/ctlevents) (<http://campusguides.stjohns.edu/ctlevents>) for more details on these modules, as well as additional professional development opportunities. If you have any difficulty logging on to Canvas, please call (718) 990-5000. In addition, Information Technology will provide more details by mid-July.

Intellectual Property Concerns

St. John's will not invoke any right of ownership over online courses or lectures that you deliver, whether that recording has been provided to meet ADA, accreditation, or other needs. Under no circumstances should lectures be sold and/or otherwise transferred for someone else's use. To that end, faculty members may include a provision in their syllabi prohibiting students from distributing recordings or other materials (a situation analogous to prohibiting students from recording a course with their cell phones).

The entire campus community will also receive a more general "return to campus" memo by mid-July and faculty members will be sent a more detailed faculty guide as procedures are developed. Please continue to look for these and other messages in your in-box. Thank you again for all you do.

Simon Geir Møller, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Professor Biological Sciences

St. John's University

Sent June 24, 2020

We would like to provide you with further information regarding the delivery of Summer Session II academic programs as noted in the announcement dated May 1, 2020. The original plan was to offer a limited number of Summer Session II courses in an in-person or hybrid format based on public health guidelines. However, the latest New York state and local government guidelines stipulate that higher education institutions can only reopen under Phase 4, which is not expected to begin until late July. Accordingly, all Summer Session II courses will be offered in a fully online format. If you have any questions regarding your specific classes, please contact the dean's office of your respective College or your academic adviser.

As announced last week, the University is actively preparing for the reopening of the campus for the fall semester, which will now begin on August 24 and with in-person instruction ending prior to the Thanksgiving break. To provide you with the St. John's campus experience, we plan to offer a combination of on-campus, in-person courses; courses in a hybrid format; and online classes. All classrooms will be reconfigured to accommodate social distancing during in-person instruction. To reduce density in classrooms, hybrid classes will allow students to attend some of their classes on campus and at other times attend classes remotely. Students who are registered for hybrid classes who prefer to take the class only remotely will be accommodated. More information regarding the fall semester is forthcoming; we continue to ask for your patience as we develop a schedule based on health and safety precautions.