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Academic Affairs update - Thursday, April 16, 2020

1 message

UMaine Provost <umprovost@maine.edu>

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To: Robin Delcourt <audesse@maine.edu>

Bcc: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Good day to you all:

We are in the final days and weeks of the spring term 2020. Thank you for getting to this point and for encouraging our students to finish this semester.

Please remember that the **Pass/Fail option** for individual courses is available for undergraduate student choice between **April 10 and May 1**. The [Pass/Fail Protocols](#) and the [FAQ's specific to this topic](#) are posted online. Please note, information on pass/fail for graduate courses is available on the [Research and Graduate School FAQ page](#).

With thanks to the members of the Faculty Senate for their work on this topic, the deadline for **withdrawing from individual courses** has been **extended** to May 1, 2020. We encourage students to complete their classes if possible and to seek appropriate guidance from a variety of sources to address perceived barriers to completion and to best understand the implications of any decision to withdraw from a class. [The Protocol to Extend the Deadline for Withdrawal from Individual Courses](#) is posted online.

Surveys at UMaine and UMM, along with those conducted throughout the System, suggest that our students are feeling the increase in workload across their courses and that the majority are adapting to this new reality. Your continued flexibility and compassion are important aspects that help students negotiate their academic workloads within the current context.

Our **fall recruitment efforts are on track, summer enrollments are occurring** and parents are joining in the Zoom calls for accepted students. You can expect a greater involvement by parents for this next year. Please keep in mind that UMaine responded quickly during the initial phases of the pandemic with our students in mind. Prospective students and their parents can assume we would respond that way again should any issues of safety arise.

Brightspace is the platform of choice for fall 2020. We will save funds and increase access for students trying to complete coursework on their phones. Brightspace is a mobile-friendly platform, whereas our current option is not. Please visit [CITL's Brightspace information page](#) for a schedule of workshops and other migration information. Later this week, the System will also be inviting you to a two-day virtual event on Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15. Additional details regarding the UMS virtual event will be available soon on the ETAC website (etac.maine.edu)

We have also taken the difficult step of discontinuing our services with the **Intensive English Institute (IEI)**. Our needs to align budgets, combined with reduced demand, led to taking this critical step. We will fulfill our obligations to current students and are looking for creative options to have those who need work in English and who want to join us at UMaine to be able to participate or audit classes.

Define Tomorrow is the initiative that is asking you to provide your ideas for reorganization, interdisciplinary options, and cost efficiencies. We hope you will take a moment to sketch your thoughts so we can develop innovative proposals in the next month. Submit your ideas to umprovost@maine.edu by May 15. We will review the ideas as they arrive.

Thank you for all you are doing to connect with accepted students and their parents, to respond to our current students to assist them in getting as much as they can from this term, and to keep yourselves strong and positive about the future.

Keep climbing. It's spring and we are creating our own new normal that carries many examples that create feelings of awe in response to your actions. Thank you for all you do. Go Blue.

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