Hello Guttman,

I hope this finds you well. Our morning meeting was filled with much good humor; however, I’ll describe its theme as “we don’t know and we need some clarity.” Let me explain!

- The Chancellery and CUNY presidents had a long meeting last night wherein much was discussed but little was clear or settled! Both Scott and Howard expect to receive detailed memos today.
  - The CARES act filings for CUNY are in the works through Matt Sapienza’s office, but what will come to campuses is not clear.
  - Will there be a CUNY formula to deliver that money? Probably so.
  - Will all students will be receiving money? Probably not undocumented students?
  - What will the NYC budget reveal? We don’t know, but it will be released today.
  - Will scheduled salary raises happen? We have no clarity.
  - If we remain in distance learning mode, will staff be required to report to work on campuses? We don’t know.
  - Will our fall classes be in hybrid mode? We don’t know.
  - When we know more, we’ll let you know. For now, however, suffice it to say, “oy vay.”

- Here is what we know for sure!
  - HR is today conducting its first virtual gathering.
  - Next week’s HR gathering will be open to all who want to partake. Nila and Elie will be sending out a notice, but I can tell you that the meeting will be next Thursday at 2:00! Keep your eyes open for the email about it. All are invited.
  - To sum up about HR: here is what we know for sure-----we have the best HR team in the actual as well as in the distance learning universe!
  - IT news: John says that faculty have already received information about the exam proctoring tool, “Respondus.” It is in place if anyone needs to use it.
  - Building news: our floors are shiny, our walls are being painted, and our plants are thriving. Thank you to Kouts, our masked officers, and our fantastic building staff.
  - Yesterday’s “State of the Grizz” chat went very well. Planning continues for additional events. There is a SGA virtual chat today at 3:00 p.m. that will feature Naryan Urena. Conversation might focus on video gaming, virtual gaming clubs, and just hanging out online. You’ll be able to link through our home page.
  - The new student website is very close to launch. Thanks particularly to Joanna, it will be very user-friendly.
  - Four Guttman students will be receiving support from the Chancellor’s Emergency Fund (administered centrally).

- Here is what we know we must begin to consider and plan.
What distancing measures can and will be taken when we are cleared to return to the building? We know we’ve got too many people with desks too close together (think Mezz, IT, HR, Business Office, Communications, Hub, Faculty, etc.). Therefore, we must begin planning even before we know with certainty what the situation will be. Rest assured, we will begin to do just that.

Alas, we will also need to take into account the budget environment we are going to be in because it surely will be a factor in what we can and can’t do.

- Let me close with a proven fact that has been demonstrated again and again since last week when we started Guttman’s COVID fund.
  - We have amazing heart and dedication to our students.
  - We have received donations from 31 people (mostly staff and faculty, as well as friends and family of) totaling $8,500. OSE is now in the process of communicating with 5 students who might need support from this fund.
  - Thank you to all those who have donated. If you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch.

To wink again at the theme of today’s meeting and update, this is “probably” enough for now. Have a good day!

And, take care, for sure,

Linda