Hey Guttman,

If you possibly can, get outside and enjoy the blue sky today! Here is what we discussed in our meeting today.

- Scott presented a summary of the COPS meeting yesterday. The meeting was very long and, to me, it sounds like the conversations were going round and round and round. Frankly, all the talking signifies nothing until the decision about the modality for teaching and instruction for the Fall semester is made. Clearly, the folks at Central are doing the kind of re-imagining and thinking that needs to be done. CUNY Provost Cruz is putting 7 cross-CUNY teams in place. Howard and Charles both have their group meetings with him next week. Perhaps we will have more definitive information after those meetings.

- The Chancellor is having a special meeting this afternoon with the presidents of the community colleges.

- We still have many questions about the process for the Vacancy Review Board, but our searches are moving forward to campus completion. Thank you to all those who are on search committees right now.

- We need to have definitive statements from CUNY about the issue of student tuition balances.

- Our pre-registration process continues. Thank you to all those who are working so hard on it.

- OSE is reaching out to students. It appears that we have more disengaged students than we thought, and that’s why the reaching out is so important.

- CUNY is not having its usual budget hearing with the City Council.

- The CUNY-wide student survey reports that 52% of the respondents so far have identified food insecurity as the biggest issue. We are devising a plan to help our students who have food insecurity issues. I’ll tell you more about it when it is settled. Thank you to Samantha, Bindi, Donovan, Stephen, Glendaliz---we are all working together on it.

- Dan Collins has volunteered to be one of the interviewers for the Contract Tracing Supervisory positions (as per my update the other day). Thank you to Dan. If there are others from Guttman who want to volunteer, please be in touch.

- There is still no definitive word in regard to the CARES money. We have so many questions!

- Howard is looking for clarity about the expedited Middle States/Department of Education requirements for the certification of online courses.

- The College Association meeting this morning went well. The students are jazzed up for some of the music events that Nestor and others are planning. They ask that we move events to Instagram TV. Events of Blackboard Collaborate make them feel that they are in class.

- Charles (and others) think the “State of the Grizz” show went really well yesterday. It was good to have Marcus present a faculty point of view. Every show is getting better and better. Check it out!
• Nila and the HR team are looking forward to today’s “HR Comes to You Virtually.”
• HR will be sending out a memo in regard to flexible spending in our health plans. Pay attention to it!
• For those who do flexible spending in relation to child care, you can make changes. Be in touch with HR.
• Anastasia is working on drafting a safety plan for our eventual re-opening, even if without students. For example, we will need personal protection equipment (PPE), extra cleaning supplies, thermometers, etc.
• Once definitive word is received, Mary Coleman will put a group together to discuss short-term and longer-term issues. We have to ensure that Guttman is safe and supportive to all who work and study at our College.
• Now a special message to conclude this update. It is a challenge to all STAFF. I gave you warning---we are going to put a video together that features you and your messages of encouragement to the students. So find a dark magic marker or word process your sign, comb your hair or do whatever, and send in your photos. Your encouragement message should be visible from a distance, so write in large letters using dark ink. Finally, you want to make sure your photo is horizontal, in soft light, and that you are centered in the frame. Use this link to submit your photo or email it to communications@guttman.cuny.edu by EOD (or COB) Tuesday, May 12. We look forward to hearing from you! First ten staff responders get a special shout out here! 😊

Sending you all best wishes for a productive day,
Linda

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