Howdy on a Monday after a Friday off.

Many of you probably heard about the Board of Trustees meeting last Thursday night. The motion that had originally been intended was tabled, but another was passed (see next bullet).

- Everyone should have received an email from the Chancellor that speaks of his pleasure to have the greatest flexibility possible to make the decision in regard to modality of instruction for the Fall. Here are the most important points in the Chancellor’s note:
  
  o Last night the CUNY Board of Trustees approved a resolution that gives us the most flexibility in making decisions and planning what the Fall semester will look like once New York City enters Phase 4, which signals the start of the reopening for CUNY.

  o We are preparing for a range of scenarios that combine in-person, virtual and hybrid instructional modalities. Thanks to the diligent work of so many in our system, 48 percent of the Fall 2020 courses that are open for student registration are already scheduled for hybrid or online delivery. We hope to increase this percentage in the weeks ahead in preparation for the start of the semester.

  o We are also getting ready to deliver a range of in-person courses and services, provided they meet New York State and University guidelines for re-opening and assuming that New York City enters Phase 4 over the next few weeks, as is the plan.

  o Those courses are likely to include, among others, those dependent on science labs and professional equipment, theater, performing and studio arts and clinical placements. We seek to physically reopen to the extent possible on-campus student services such as food pantries, child care and counseling centers, computer labs and library services. (Basically, these are the kinds of courses and services that can be in-person).

  o We are also devising plans to help our international students in response to the misguided policy announced by Washington earlier this week. The resolution approved by the Board last night also helps us in this matter by providing maximum latitude to offer them some degree of in-person instruction. We will leave no stone unturned to make sure our international students are able to stay and continue their studies at CUNY. (Use above link to read the Chancellor’s statement, which was very strong!)

  o All these future decisions will be guided, first and foremost, by our obligation to protect the health and safety of all students, faculty and staff, along with our commitment to facilitate the maintenance of academic momentum for students. At the same time, we are extending a degree of flexibility to each college to develop
plans tailored to the needs of its campus community.

- Senior Staff and others read the Chancellor’s message as saying that CUNY will be online as much as possible, and that is how we will proceed at Guttman.

- We will continue the process of coding our courses as online. The Registrar’s Office is responsible for the coding on CUNYfirst, but we want to point out that there is a feature in it that allows for “notes,” which means that faculty can indicate optional synchronous sessions, study sessions, and office hours that can be synchronous. This will allow for the kinds of encounters that we heard students want more opportunity to have.

- Nila imparted the content of emails she received from Central about the training of supervisory staff and others who will be responsible to monitoring/checking those who are returning to campus. Right now across CUNY the only personnel who are returning to campuses are the skilled tradespeople. We don’t have any such people at Guttman.

- Here is a link to the NY Post story that speaks to CUNY being mostly online: https://nypost.com/2020/07/12/cuny-to-continue-most-on-line-classes-in-fall-amid-coronavirus/

- The Committee will meet again on Thursday morning.

Have a good start to the week!

Stay well and safe,

Linda

P.S. For those of us who do bi-weekly timesheets, please remember that they are due today.

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