

Class of 2024 Virtual Town Hall

Thursday, August 20, 2020

5 p.m.

Jo Ann Brasington: Good afternoon and welcome to this virtual town hall to answer questions about returning to campus next week. I'm Jo Ann Brasington, your host and moderator. My colleague in Marketing and Communications, Dudley Brown, will be monitoring the Q&A channel and will be answering some questions as they come in. We have lots of panelists on this town hall, as you've seen, because we had lots of good questions. Joining us are Dr. Nayef Samhat, president; Dr. Mike Sosulski, provost; Roberta Hurley Bigger, dean of students; Beth Wallace, associate dean of students and director of the Wellness Center; Lisa Lefebvre, director of employee wellness and medical services; Talicia Murphy, director of student activities and campus life; Brian Lemere, assistant dean of students for residence life; Kay Foster, director of the IT help center; Amy Lancaster, dean of international programs; Curt McPhail, executive director of the career center, and Dr. Carol Wilson, professor of English and coordinator of academic advising.

We will begin with opening remarks from President Samhat followed by pre-submitted questions. If we have time, we will take live questions. Please use the Q&A feature on your Zoom window. This will last no more than 55 minutes. If you cannot stay for the entire event, we will post a recording and transcript at Wofford.edu/coronavirus under the Town Hall icon.

Let's begin.

Nayef Samhat: Thanks Jo Ann and I hope all of you remain well and are quarantining yourselves at home in preparation for your arrival on campus next week. We are very excited to welcome you to our community as a new Terrier— even if this will come with a little different look than normal. We have spent the summer in research and study and planning in preparation for a semester that will be filled with some uncertainty. But we know we have a good plan in place — it's a plan that's been developed on campus with our experts and team of faculty and staff, of Wellness Center staff, of public health guidance from public health authorities guidance as well as input from our neighbors at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. So basically, to all the new Terriers, you need to know, we have one shot at this and only one shot. If we follow the commitments listed on the WoffordTogether website, then we can have a great semester on campus. I'm happy to wear a mask, which I do whenever I leave my office, and you need to wear a mask. We maintain social distance, avoid large gatherings and practice rigorous hand hygiene. And if we can do that, it means we can keep students on campus safely until Thanksgiving. So, before we begin our questions, I'd like to offer a heavy dose of thanks to our Student COVID Response Team. They have offered suggestions, tapped into their creativity and created a social media campaign and other initiatives to encourage

wearing masks, to doing things the right way so we can be together. So, when you come to campus don't forget your masks! See you next week, let's begin.

Question: How committed is Wofford's administration to keeping students on campus through the fall semester? What's the administration's threshold for positive COVID-19 cases on campus before "pulling the plug?"

Nayef Samhat: Well, I can tell you we are all committed to keeping everyone on campus through the fall semester until Thanksgiving. Students, faculty and staff have all come together to work for this because we want to be together because that's what the college experience is like, because that's what Wofford is all about. Cases continue to go down in our area as masks ordinances are working. And we're prepared and hopeful that everyone coming to campus will be wearing a mask, social distancing and practicing hygiene, as instructed. I urge you to practice those basic procedures and we will be fine. Defining a threshold, however, is much, much more complicated. And we're monitoring the capacity of Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. Our isolation capacity and the results of contact tracing tied to organized Wofford College activities, such as classes and those kinds of events. We've been in touch with our friends at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, in fact today, and we've had this very same conversation about a threshold. And they urged us to follow our basic practices and we can make it through to Thanksgiving.

Question: What is the process that a student will follow if they present with symptoms of COVID-19?

Lisa Lefebvre: Welcome everyone and I'm excited for you guys to arrive next week. So, a couple of things. The first part of it is that we're going to have a daily COVID symptom tracker and we need people to fill that out. I will be contacting people who present with either positive symptoms of COVID-19 or that they designate that they have somehow been in contact with someone. I will work with each student or faculty and staff to help them figure out what they need to do, what the next step is, and we'll adjust for each person for whatever they need. But I will be checking with everyone that fills out forms and helping them get tested if they need to.

Question: If a student must isolate or quarantine due to the virus, who will check on them and how often will someone check on them? How will they receive meals?

Lisa Lefebvre: Great question and we have already thought of this. So, we have some spaces set aside for them. I will be checking on them, either virtually or in person, depending on if they are isolating or quarantining. In other words, the people that are isolating or have COVID, I will check on more frequently, and probably more likely in person to make sure that they are fine. And then the ones that are in quarantine, we're just waiting to see if maybe those people have any symptoms and so that will most likely be a virtual visit. And then we will make sure that they get meals. We will make

sure that they have food and have a way to heat up their food because part of being in isolation and quarantine is not leaving where we put you. So, we are going to ask them to remain there. We will give them some guidance on that, and we will check on them regularly. I would say at least once a day but probably more than that as they need it.

Question: Will there be adequate staff in the Wellness Center since there may be a chance of increased need for services?

Beth Wallace: Good evening and thank you all for joining us. Actually, Lisa and I talked about this this afternoon and we have an excellent staff in medical services. We have Lisa, who will be managing much of the COVID processes and procedures that we have in place. I will be assisting her with that as well. We have a nurse practitioner and a RN who will be doing tele-health and face-to-face appointments if necessary, for those in the afternoon. I wish I had I had a crystal ball to tell you what a month from now is going to look like, what two months will be looking like at the Wellness Center. But I will tell you that we have some excellent procedures in place that we developed with as much information as we have. But to answer the question, I can only tell you that I'm going to be in touch with Chris Gardner, Nayef Samhat, Roberta Bigger if we are feeling overwhelmed or if there is something in our area that we're concerned about. And I am sure that they will be supportive, they know that we have a very dedicated staff. So, we will be in touch with them and keep them updated on what our status is, the number of cases and illness. Just regular illnesses, too, that we are seeing, and I feel confident that if we need additional staff that they will be supportive in those requests.

Question: What's Wofford's plan for testing students, faculty and staff for COVID-19? If you don't have a testing plan, is there a plan for daily self-assessments?

Nayef Samhat: We were chatting about this with our friends over at Spartanburg Regional today as well and we continue to follow CDC, DHEC, South Carolina public health authorities and our friends over at Spartanburg Regional, all of their guidance. We will pursue testing if students present symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive. We've asked students to quarantine for a couple of weeks before the start of school and be tested if possible. And, we're also looking at a variety of options for random testing, but we haven't finalized those plans yet. We will have access to testing as needed. And starting Monday, our entire community will complete daily self-assessments through the patient portal, as will students.

Question: What procedures does Wofford have for regulating ingress/egress to campus for the fall semester for students and guests? Has Wofford considered implementing a total campus lockdown?

Roberta Hurley Bigger: Thank you Jo Ann and thanks to everyone who could join us this afternoon. As everyone knows, we have hundreds of employees who live off-campus,

we have commuting students and we have students who have jobs off-campus. So completely shutting the campus down or having a lock down is not possible. And as Dr. Samhat noted, we are encouraging not just students, but faculty and staff will be wearing masks, washing their hands, and social distancing frequently. So everyone is committed to this, and this is a great time for me to remind students, if you are on this call, that if you haven't already done so, you need to complete the pledge electronically because you will not be allowed to check-in unless you have signed the pledge agreeing to live by these guidelines on our campus.

Question: Will the weight rooms and the gym be open for full use in the Benjamin Johnson Arena? If so, what restrictions will be in place? Will students be allowed to play basketball in the gym?

Roberta Hurley Bigger: The fitness center re-opened in June and we have signage up, we have new cleaning policies, we have wipes that we know will kill the coronavirus, as well as other germs. And so, students will be socially distancing and have been, the faculty, staff and students who have been there using it this summer, and so you cannot work-out on a machine side-by-side with someone. So, we have clear instructions there. And right now, we don't have the floor open for basketball, but we do have an outdoor basketball area in the senior village so students would be able to use the outdoor area.

Question: What is Wofford doing to make sure that students have adequate online academic options?

Mike Sosulski: Welcome to everybody who's joined us this afternoon. I can see that I am, apparently, impersonating a president looking at my little Hollywood square there. I assure you there's nothing implied in that. Let me get to the question and it's a very good question. We really believe that we have more than adequate remote learning options for students who need them and who may need them throughout the term. I can tell you that our faculty have been working really hard since the end of the spring semester and all summer to prepare for this kind of unusual fall. We now have over 200 online or hybrid options ready to go – that's 64% of the total courses that are being offered this semester. And the thing that I want to say about that is that while we worked really hard to make really quality remote-learning options available, the heart of Wofford and the heart of the academic experience at Wofford really is the face-to-face learning experience. So, we've been really focused on doing that as well as we possibly can, with all the necessary precautions, including face masks, distanced classrooms and the like. So, I think we are really well-positioned to have a really successful fall, whether it be in-person or remote.

Question: What is the attitude toward ensuring a successful Interim Travel Studies program for January 2021? When will the administration know if the programs will make?

Amy Lancaster: Well, we would obviously love to have our crystal balls to know for sure what's going to happen in January. But we are fortunate to have a number of partners here on campus that we are working with to look at just that. So, our Incident Management Team is a team of staff who are considering not only COVID-19 and its implications but location-specific parameters that we would need to consider. Each program is very different in terms of how many days they're looking to be traveling and where they are traveling and how much they're traveling, so we recognize that there might need to be program-specific decisions. We've already actually had a couple of programs that had to be cancelled or suspended for this coming January and we'll continue to update our website and notify any applicants who might be impacted by those changes. But any final decisions about the interim travel program as a whole might be made by the end of September. As far as any students who are interested in applying, we are obviously hopeful that we will be able to run the remaining programs and we encourage students to consider their options, that can find that information on our website. But we will also obviously be sharing a lot of information when the students arrive next week. And any funds that have been paid, the students have obviously paid deposits for those programs, those will be refunded if those programs are cancelled in September. So, we have a lot of information online as to what the timeline is for those decisions and if you have any questions, you're obviously welcome to reach out to us at any point.

Question: Will meals be take-out only? Are all campus eateries open? What are the hours?

Roberta Hurley Bigger: Let me just say before I answer that that Wofford has a great partner in Culinary Services, the company AVI, so the students will hear those letters often. AVI has worked diligently all summer to prepare for students' arrival and they have redesigned some of our dining areas and dining options. Because they want to deliver the safest, and quickly deliver the food options this semester. There will be additional carry-out options that we haven't had in the past. We will allow students to sit in our dining areas, but they will be socially distant. Students will be required to wear a mask into the areas, but they can take it off when they are eating. If hours are to change or to be adjusted, all of that will be posted on the website they can refer to everyday. And there will be additional areas where they can sanitize and clean their hands.

Question: Any thoughts to adding more off-campus restaurants where Terrier Bucks can be used to help with social distancing for meals?

Roberta Hurley Bigger: Because we're encouraging students to stay on campus as much as possible, we are not looking to add additional restaurants to the Terrier Bucks program this year.

Question: How do the experiences of other colleges and universities and their openings impact Wofford's current plan:

Nayef Samhat: That's a great question. I know in the news some large universities have changed course and so we are keeping an eye on what's happening in the news. But we are a small college and I have actually spent more time focusing on engaging peers and colleagues at small colleges like our own, just to compare notes and share experiences. We start a little later than most of our peer institutions, so we have about a ten to 14-day gap which has allowed us to reach out to other places and see how their experiences have been. Nonetheless, Wofford is unique and special, and so we are following our own good plan that has been developed on campus and with public health authorities and our partners over at Spartanburg Regional, and we feel good about where we stand as we enter move-in week next week, and you arrive to campus with your masks.

Question: Is there an alert system set up to alert families when an outbreak occurs?

Jo Ann Brasington: Starting next week, we will begin posting any positive COVID-19 numbers at Wofford.edu/coronavirus. You're welcome to check that site. Now, we always have an emergency text and email system, and I know, as a first-year parent, you may not have signed up for that yet. But you can, by visiting my.wofford.edu. Dudley will you please put that in the chat so everyone can see it. If you can visit my.wofford.edu, under "home" there are the words "emergency alert system". If you click that you can sign up.

Question: Where will students be able to study on campus? Will the library be open?

Mike Sosulski: I'm happy to answer that. So, two of the most popular spots to study are our wonderful library, the Sandor Teszler Library that's just been renovated, is beautifully furnished and it's a very very popular place for students to study. The other place is the Great Oaks Hall which is in the Roger Milliken Science Center. And both of those places have been outfitted in ways which are safe and socially distanced, will be again, comfortable study spaces for students on campus.

Question: If students have to move out due to COVID-19 in the fall, will they have to remove all of their belongings:

Brian Lemere: If at some point during the fall the college is closed for the fall, we will remind all students to take home those things that are critical. Obviously, books, medicine, anything else that is extremely important to them, anything they may need at home. But other than that, everything can stay in their rooms until they return in the new year.

Question: If students are sent home after the start of classes, will room and board be refunded? Would it be possible to stay on campus and not receive the refund?

Nayef Samhat: If students are sent home and we cannot complete the semester, we will refund a portion of the room and board like we did in the spring. Residence Life does have a procedure for applying to stay on campus and students are welcome to pursue that. My advice, is that the best way to ensure that we stay on campus for the entire semester, is to wear your masks, socially distance. Remember, hygiene counts. When you're eating and sleeping, you don't have to wear a mask but at every other time, wear a mask and social distance and maintain safe hygiene and we think we'll be able to make it all the way to Thanksgiving, into Interim, and the spring as well.

Question: Why are some courses not available to be remote or partially remote? If we are forced to move to remote learning, what will happen to those courses?

Mike Sosulski: Two good questions. The way I want to answer that is just to remind everyone that as a residential liberal arts college, what we specialize in and what we do so well is the in-person, face-to-face experience. So, the goal, from the beginning of our planning has been to have the in-person experience of teaching and learning to the extent we possibly can because we know that's what we really do the best. There are courses available remotely, we knew that we were going to need to do some of that. And most of the classes that are fully remote or of a hybrid fashion, those are being taught, the bulk of them are being taught by faculty, that for various reasons, need to teach remotely. That's why we have some but not all courses that way. Now if we are forced to move to completely remote learning, what will happen to those courses, is that they will all have to be available remotely. We showed in the spring that we are able to do that and we have learned a ton from that experience and I'm convinced that if we do have to go that way again we will be able to provide even better courses than we were before based on all the preparation that our faculty have done with that knowledge over the summer.

Question: How will online classes work? Will some be live-streamed and synchronized or asynchronous?

Mike Sosulski: I can answer that really briefly by saying yes, they will be both. Research has demonstrated in online learning that really the most effective method is not to simply try to broadcast live a course exactly the way you would have done it if you were in person for a 14-week semester. That is generally not the most effective way. Now it does vary a bit depending upon the discipline, the academic subject that's being covered. Really the most effective method tends to be one that's blended, so you have some live and synchronous activity but also a healthy dose of asynchronous material. A really good robust use of our online learning platform which we call Moodle. That has the ability to do discussions, and to provide video, house materials for the courses, all of those things. So, it's really a combination approach.

Question: What sort of plans does the Career Center have to help students secure internships or jobs during this time?

Curt McPhail: That's a good question, and we recognize at the Career Center that this is a really tough job market that we are sending students out in, whether it's for an internship over the summer or whether it's at the end of their college career. What I'll say to you all as first-year students is a couple of things. We're telling students, we're encouraging students that this is really the right time to get all of your materials ready and also to begin your networking. And when I say materials I'm talking about your resume, your cover letter. And we have tons of opportunities for students to network both with alumni and with other folks who are in job fields for professions that they want to do. As first-year students, you will spend a week with the Career Center as part of your FYI instruction. We will walk you through how to make a resume, how to turn in a resume. We will talk with you about the technology we have for you to be able to access appointments with our staff but also other opportunities. We will also, in the fall, provide weekly programming for students that walk students through our four-year plan that you can find on our website. Each week builds on the previous week as far as skill building and material building. The last thing I will say is that we will also be open for appointments. Our staff will see students both in-person and virtually. I will ask that people give us a little bit of patience with in-person meetings because of social distance requirements. We are using our conference room for all of our in-person meetings so it may be a little bit harder to get with us on that, but we've got plenty of virtual opportunities. Also, lastly, encourage you to follow us on Instagram, WOCO Career Center, that where we post all of our events. You can find out what's going on and those kinds of things there. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you all on campus and working with you, from thinking about what you want to do when you graduate from Wofford.

Question: For the upcoming election, due to the USPS having delay deliveries, our absentee ballots may not arrive on time. Will professors provide excused absences for the students so we can exercise our right to vote on Election Day?

Nayef Samhat: I want to say a few things first. Don't forget to bring your masks and wear your masks on campus. The second thing I want to say to the incoming students and their parents who are listening is that everyone on this Zoom call from the college and people across the campus have been working very very, very hard day in and day out to make this the most extraordinary experience under the most unusual circumstances. I want you to be assured we are doing everything and have done everything to make it as normal as possible but we are depending on you and all of our colleagues to do the right thing in how we behave and act on campus to make it a successful semester. Finally, I want to say Vote! I believe in voting; I think it's the origin of change in society from the local level to the state and national level. So, I encourage you to vote and to use the mechanisms available to you. If you are far away from home, then I suggest an absentee ballot and doing that well in advance. If you are here and

registered here in the county, then I would suggest you going into the voting booth and voting in your local precinct, like my wife and I will do on that day. I would encourage you to make the arrangements to vote before you get here or after you get here and to get that absentee ballot and mail it in early. And I have great confidence in the United States Postal Service for getting deliveries in on time. They move billions of pieces of mail every day and nowhere for pennies or cents on the dollar can you send something from one end of the country to another within a few days and it's getting where it needs to go.

Question: With all of the social distancing, how will students receive help with computer issues? Or how will students interact with staff in other offices? Will they be allowed to drop in?

Kay Foster: In an effort to follow social distancing recommendations, students should first contact the Help Center at 864-597-4357 or email us at help@wofford.edu with their issues. Students should make sure to include a callback number and a brief description of the issue that they have, to leave a message. Often, we can resolve issues quickly over the phone, without face-to-face contact. If we are not able to resolve an issue over the phone, we will set up an appointment with the student here in the Help Center. During these consultations, we will also wear masks and maintain social distancing. In the past, some students have dropped off their equipment with us if it is too complex and may require extra time to resolve. We will continue to offer this service if students feel comfortable. If you have any questions, again that number is 864-597-4357 or you can email us at help@wofford.edu.

Jo Ann Brasington: I'll take the next part of that question. Staff have been working throughout the summer to prepare for the arrival of students. I can't say enough how eager we are to get students back on campus. We have directional and spacing signs in the buildings, and more is coming this weekend, as well as plexiglass screens in high traffic areas. If students are more comfortable meeting virtually, staff will accommodate that as well. This is about putting students first, so we're going to do that.

Question: Should a student need to quarantine because of exposure or a COVID-positive test, are they allowed to attend classes missed remotely?

Mike Sosulski: Professors will do what they have always done when students are ill which is to work with them to create a plan to help them stay current in their classwork. That's always been our way of working and COVID-19 will be no different.

Lisa Lefebvre: One thing I want to mention is that we have something on this campus called Starfish and it's a way that we're able to notify faculty and staff, faculty in particular of situations that students may have and so are developing a Starfish that is a way for us to notify that someone is in isolation or quarantine. It will be a very vague

kind of this, just saying that someone's going to be out for 10 to 14 days so that the faculty are aware and that we are also aware of that situation so we'll deal with that in that way so that faculty are notified and then we will help the students with whatever they need. If I need too, you know, reach out to the Provost and say this student is having an issue, I have no problem reaching out to let them know that that's something is going on. But most of the time students can contact their faculty directly and just let them know what's going on.

Question: What are the consequences of violations to COVID policies on campus? Please give details.

Jo Ann Brasington: The consequences are a lot, and they are pretty severe. We're taking that really seriously even though we're, you know, we're all in this together. But this is important. If you'll check wofford.edu/woffordtogether, on that first page, there's the pledge and the consequences, so students and families have access to both of those. I will also put that real quick in the chat.

Question: Will there be an orientation for first-year parents?

Beth Wallace: Unfortunately, we cannot do the orientation that we've enjoyed in the past with parents just because we're doing our best to decrease exposure and decrease large crowds on campus. So we are doing some things virtually that I'm going to make sure Dr. Wilson discusses that because that is one of our most popular sessions that we do with parents is when they can learn more about advising at Wofford, but I will add that I've been in conversation with Dr. Ron Robinson who is our Chaplain, who also does a couple of sessions with our parents during orientation, and he plans to do something as well and to send that out to you all, I believe he's working with Jo Ann to make sure that gets out to you all as you depart campus. And I'm sure it'll be a very timely message, so have your tissues ready because he can usually draw a few tears in those sessions about letting go of your child at college. I mean, it's been a long time since I've done that, and I still get teary listening to it. I'll turn it over to Dr. Wilson for making sure you know about her plans for advising at Wofford.

Carol Wilson: Thank you Dean Wallace and for a chance to remind parents to please check your email for an invitation to an advising panel that will be held at 3:45 pm, eastern daylight time on August 27th, it's in the afternoon. It's going to provide an introduction to advising resources for the first year and beyond. We're going to bring in a variety of folks from academic advisors, pre-professional advisors, major advisors, people to talk about the system of resources and support available for students here at the college. But we'll also have people speak about athletic compliance. The role of International Programs, the importance of financial aid discernment and understanding for students. All of these opportunities together give students the chance to shape their educations for their own goals and their well-being. So, we're looking forward to your

being a part of it parents. Please join us at 3:45 pm on Thursday, August 27th. You'll have an email with a link to a webinar and we'll look forward to seeing you then.

Question: What can we expect on move-in day?

Beth Wallace: Dean Bigger, Dean Lamere and a couple of other of us met yesterday to do literally, not a virtual walk through, we literally walked through what that would look like to try to decrease traffic, to try to decrease your wait time. You will have received an email from residence life, a week or so ago, two weeks maybe with a move-in time. Local students we invite you to come on Tuesday to drop off belongings but not to spend the night. Wednesday, we have time slots that were available all day long as well as Thursday morning. So, what you can look for, during that time is to drive on campus. We are trying to decrease any contact as much as possible and we have a system that I'm hoping they will let me use a walkie-talkie, that's my only request so far, that we walkie talk down your name and what residence hall you're in and you pick up your packet and your ID with the key, a schedule, and some instructions to upload an app that has more information on it and your parking registration and then you will be given a designated spot to unload your belongings close to your residence hall. And we hope that you will then go find a parking spot, come back and take your belonging into the residence hall. Now if you can find a parking spot close to your residence hall as you are scouting out this, I would strongly encourage you to snag that parking spot and stay there and unload your car if it's close enough. But we wanted to make it available close to the lawn of your residence hall, so it eases that. I will say that move-in day for the past 30 years has been one of my very favorite days and unfortunately, it's going to look very different, we've had to reimagine it. We will not be able to help you move in that that is something that I hope will be back at this time next year. So, with that, you'll have that time frame to unload some belongings and help your student take them to their room. Again, we're not having anything else for parents, students will have a meal and some other opportunities during Thursday when all students are on campus. But let me say to the folks on this screen, and this is something I've been emailing students today. On their FYI checklist, in order to make this a smooth process, because we know it's already an incredibly stressful day emotionally and physically for you all, if you will go with your student or if your student will look on their FYI checklist on the website, you will see a personalized checklist. But the items that really need to be done are their ID. They can send in a picture still and get the ID made to where we are handing it to you while you are sitting in the car. I emailed 63 students today that have not completed their medical form, and passionately ask them to do that when they moved in because if not, we're going to have to take you out of that process and have that completed. A car registration, you might have business with the financial aid office or the business office. All of that really will be to your benefit to get as much of that taken care of prior to your move-in day. Then I think we can really expect it to be a smooth process for you all to where you can enjoy time with your student and haul those little mini fridges up to their rooms. So, I know that it's a different experience, but we really

are in hopes that it will be a smooth and good experience for you all. Because this is, regardless of COVID-19, such an important day in the life of your student, it's emotional, it's exciting, it's things that you all have worked for 18 years and so we want to make that as pleasant and memorable experience as we possibly can.

Jo Ann Brasington: Beth, we've had a parent ask, where, exactly will they get their packet on move-in day?

Beth Wallace: Okay, now if our system holds true, which I really think we will, you'll pull into Campus Drive, and we will find out who you are. Let me back up. Dean Bigger will be sending an email in the next 24 to 48 hours about their move-in process and what residence hall and when you pull in to Campus Drive, we'll ask your name, and then we'll radio down, a little bit further down and we literally, if everything is complete on your checklist we'll be able to hand you a packet on Campus Drive with your key, your ID, your car registration and a schedule, but that is if all items are completed on your checklist. So please take a look at that as soon as possible and feel free to touch base with me if there's anything I can further or if you still need assistance in completing those things, I will get you to the right place.

Question: What plans have been made to assist first-year students in succeeding at Wofford without the usual opportunities to meet people and become involved?

Carol Wilson: I have really appreciated an opportunity to think in some detail about our academic programming that we are adapting to new circumstances. When students come to campus, they are going to find that our very successful FYI 101 program, led by Dean Beth Wallace and our student success teams are in place. Students are assigned to a group of four leaders on campus: and academic advisor, a staff guide, a student orientation leader, and a personal librarian who will help them with those transitions into college. In their FYI 101 section, they are in an advising cohort and so we are excited about the idea that they identify friends early on in that class and then begin to network with other classes as well. Academic advising is going to be a key support system for all Wofford students but especially first-year students. Students, if you are interested in general education of course, we are here for you, you will have a general education advisor. But you can also meet with pre-professional or major advisors, but you may need some questions answered by folks in financial aid, or the office of student success or athletic compliance. Students will have resources available to them through Zoom meetings, through phone conversations, through email and at times through face to face meetings. We're being creative in thinking about how you can access the information and the resources that you need. The key will be, students, if you don't hear anything else from me is that one, you reach out when you have questions. Contact your academic advisor, you can certainly contact your FYI 101 instructor, another professor, but reach out. And then the second part of that is to respond to communication from your advisors however it comes to you. First year student in particular, please check your wofford.edu email next week for a note from your

academic advisor because your first meeting will be on Friday, August 28th. And so, you'll want to check that and be sure that it's there. Talicia, I know you're going to talk about some of the programming that you all are doing. I'm looking forward to knowing a bit about that.

Talicia Murphy: So, things will look very different from what they've looked in the past. All first-year students will have the opportunity to attend the FYI orientation and student involvement interest fair that will take place on September 8th. They will go with their orientation group at a very specific time and just go through what organizations we have on campus and this fair will only be for on-campus organizations and so while this may be a little bit different we want to give them the opportunity to see what they can be involved in. Our student-led programming committee, Wofford Activities Council, is working to program and find events that they can host virtually and in-person in smaller groups. They're working every day to figure out different things that they would have done in the past and along with that organization's other student organizations and offices across campus are working together to figure out what they can do to make sure the students stay engaged and involved. More information about getting involved and how you can attend events will be in the daily announcements and also on the First 54 calendar that will begin on August 31st.

Question: If Wofford does pivot to online classes will the grading scale pivot to pass/fail?

Mike Sosulski: Happy to answer that. So, we pivoted to a pass/fail or a credit/no credit option in the spring like many institutions did because of the suddenness and the unexpected nature of the change to remote learning. Things are different now. Faculty are much better prepared for this option and in fact have been told that everyone should be prepared in the event that they need to offer course content online. So no, we do not intend to change the grading system at this point in time. And that is a standard practice at all of our peer institutions as well. Grading will be normal.

Jo Ann Brasington: Lisa, we've gotten several questions about contact tracing. Can you explain that a little bit, including, we've gotten one very specific one about CDC guidelines?

Lisa Lefebvre: So contact tracing means that basically that anyone who has been exposed, or anyone who is testing positive or if anyone goes for testing, I'll start talking to them about anyone that they've been around so that we can start the process maybe even before we get the results. But we are using the CDC guidelines which is you need to be six feet apart, wearing a mask, and then if you're around someone for more than 15 minutes. So we are using those guidelines and so that doesn't necessarily mean that everyone in a class because we are spacing people more than six feet apart in classes and we're asking everyone to wear a mask and we have plexiglass shields at the front of the class for the faculty to be behind in addition to them wearing mask. So, because

someone's positive it does not necessarily mean that everyone in that class is going to be quarantined. It means that the people that someone is around when they're eating, when they're socializing after hours and not wearing a mask or being closer than six feet, those are the people that we're going to be contacting to ask them to quarantine. So, I'm hoping I answered that question. I did have another question from a parent at a previous time and I thought that I would mention it, it has to do with antibodies. If someone has positive antibodies, they do not have to quarantine for three months after their positive antibody test unless they have symptoms and then we need to quarantine them and test them. But we are going to, again, follow the CDC guidelines on that for three months past a positive test of someone who has had COVID-19.

Question: Are you checking student temperatures before they get out of their car?

Lisa Lefebvre: No, we're not, but your students, starting next week, should start doing the daily check and part of that daily check is to do your temperature check. And also, I'm going to show this right now, but what it looks like, and your student can do this but this is what they should see is a something that shows a green circle that says they're negative and it has a daily expiration date, so that's what our COVID screening check looks like once they've completed it and it's acceptable for them to go to class and do whatever it is they need to do for move-in next week. Dean Wallace is showing you a couple of things, so this is a little teaser that we are getting each student a thermometer, mask, hand sanitizer, door opener and a bag to hold all of that stuff.

Question: Faculty advisors, my son has a question and has sent two emails without a reply. Are there no replies until next week or something?

Carol Wilson: I'm always disappointed that someone has sent an email and not gotten a reply. I'm counting probably 20 things in my dock and I sure hope I don't have it open, but I could. Please have your student email me directly, at wilsoncb@wofford.edu, but also you're welcome to leave me a voicemail that says please go look for my name if for some reason I have dropped you. Does not mean that you're not my favorite it means I must be a woman who was overwhelmed at some point in email. We will get back to you as soon as we can and appreciate all the patience that email, and remote communication takes. It's new for all of us at the level that we're all doing it now and if you do not follow up the way you just did then we won't ever know that there's a need out there. So, thank you for that opportunity.

Jo Ann Brasington: That's all of our time for this afternoon. If you have a question that did not receive an answer, please email woffordnews@wofford.edu. Thank you for participating and thank you to our panelists and all the people behind the scenes who have made this event possible. Remember you can find a recording and a transcript of this event at Wofford.edu/coronavirus. This concludes our virtual town hall. Stay well Terriers!