



“Our Finest Hour” April 13, 2020

Good Monday afternoon,

Administrative Council and the Core Executive Team met this morning. The Academic Leadership Team met this afternoon. Two major items today were finances and potential reopening scenarios. These are obviously connected like a Venn diagram.

Future budgets are impossible to predict, and even with federal dollars available via the CARE Act, these funds are basically "flow-through" dollars to support students. The University will not receive any direct benefit per se from the appropriation that has been reported. The next edition of Inside Missouri State scheduled for release in the morning will address this situation. Suffice it to say, our ability to provide instruction for summer and fall 2020 classes will depend on finances, and finances will depend on enrollments.

Potential reopening of campus scenarios include, in order of most optimistic to least optimistic possibilities: (1) opening in August "business as usual" or in some similar format, (2) opening in August, but should a resurgence occur, return to virtual formats as needed, (3) opening in January 2021, or (4) opening in summer or fall 2021 in a traditional format. I broached these with department heads last week, and will be working with them individually and collectively beginning tomorrow morning to ensure every class has a plan regardless of which scenario might be realized.

Hope you enjoyed the recent break. Major kudos to members of my Faculty Advisory Council who gave up a portion of their break last Thursday to meet. I very much appreciate your willingness to consider options in support of our students. Your input, concerns, ideas, and suggestions help me as I contribute at AC, ALC, LC, and other forums.

BTW, it already appears as though our local efforts to "shelter in place" are working. In a few weeks I trust the "peak" (while unfortunate) will document that Southwest Missouri fared far better than predicted. Let's keep that momentum going.

Once again, the MSU College of Education is leading the way as the premier education college in Missouri and beyond. Thanks to each and every one of you for making that a reality. You have "stepped up" to ensure your students are able to complete course work effectively. Moreover, you have reached out to students to help them cope, and you have turned "social distancing" into what we used to call a "teachable moment."

I am so very proud of you for displaying professional demeanors worthy of acknowledgement. Take care, my friends, and as always:

Keep calm and carry on,

David