

October 13, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I want to let you know that I will not send my regular weekly update for the next couple of weeks. I will be on vacation and then traveling on University business.

Thank You

As you know, last Friday was the deadline for meeting the University's [COVID-19 vaccination requirement](#). Take a look at our *amazing* results on our [COVID-19 dashboard](#). However, because the dashboard reports percentages, it does not tell the whole story. All students and faculty and an overwhelming majority of staff met the deadline. Those few staff members who did not meet the requirement by Oct. 8 still have the opportunity to do so before early January, 2022, during a period of administrative leave. We know that this was a very difficult decision for some members of our community to make. I want to thank those who made this incredible result possible, in particular our staff in Human Resources and University Health Service, who had countless individual conversations with employees and students to assist them in coming into compliance with this important requirement.

Other University News

Open Staff meeting: The Board of Trustees and Board of Regents both met on campus last week. Details of actions taken by both boards will be outlined by the vice-chancellor at the upcoming Open Staff meeting (Thursday, Oct. 21, 3 p.m. in Convocation Hall). Please send any questions or issues you would like to have addressed to Employee Advisory Committee representative [Tammy Elliott](#) or Human Resources representative [Jessica Welch](#) by Oct. 19. You can send your questions to either representative through the SPO or by email. On the recommendation of the EAC, we ask that all questions include the name of the submitter (no anonymous submissions). Faculty members will receive their regular report in the coming weeks. In addition, faculty and staff will receive a written summary of the Boards' actions.

University values update: In August, the Values Steering Committee introduced the four shared University values that emerged from the process we began last spring. The intent was that the values of inquiry, community, flourishing, and courage would inform our conversations and planning going forward—and indeed, our University values have been the foundation for several projects around campus in the past few weeks. The Division of Student Life is developing a new mission and vision using the University values as a guide. The Campus Activities office will incorporate the values into student leadership development, and future student events will connect to one of the values. Several offices, departments, and groups are using the values for internal team development, including the Office of Civic Engagement, the Honor Council, and the Office of Global Citizenship. Dialogue Across Difference led an intensive student dialogue training session and grounded the experience in a dialogue around our community values. Please consider how you might use these values in shaping the ways we live and work together in Sewanee.

Fall Break: Fall Break begins this weekend in the College and runs through next Tuesday; seminarians have reading days during the same time. Classes resume next Wednesday. I know

students and faculty in particular will enjoy the chance to catch their breath—and I hope staff members also will benefit from a slightly slower pace for a couple of days!

Sincerely,

Nancy