

DIVISION OF BUSINESS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

COVID-19 BRIEFING

December 9, 2020

Prepared by: Michael Morris, Co-chair, Spring Planning Task Force
Kirk England, Co-chair, Spring Planning Task Force

ACTION: Request for Cabinet's approval of adjustment to the Spring 2021 schedule, as recommended by the Spring Planning Task Force.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY ISSUE(S):

The Spring Planning Task Force (SPTF) was established at CSUCI when Chancellor White announced that classes for the Spring 2021 semester would be virtual, with limited exception, similar to that of the Fall 2020 semester. The SPTF worked to develop and implement plans to support those limited classes which were approved for in-person instruction in the spring semester, as well as to provide support for virtual instruction. CSUCI's plan for the Spring 2021 semester was submitted to the Chancellor's Office on November 6. On December 2, following rapidly deteriorating conditions regarding the spread and prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chancellor White asked all 23 campuses to reevaluate their proposed plans for the Spring 2021 semester. Following considerable discussion and input from faculty and students, the SPTF recommends the following adjustments to the schedule for the Spring 2021 semester:

RECOMMENDATION:

The spring 2021 semester will begin as scheduled on January 25, 2021; however, to control for a rise in COVID-19 infections immediately following the holiday break, all classes will be held virtually through February 7. Those classes which were previously approved for in-person instruction may begin February 8, following a 2-week moratorium.

Spring recess will continue as scheduled for March 15-21; however, to control for a rise in COVID-19 infections immediately following the spring recess, beginning March 22 all classes including those previously scheduled for in-person, will be held virtually through April 4. The campus will be closed Wednesday, March 31 for the Cesar Chavez holiday. Classes approved for in-person instruction will begin again on April 5.

Nursing classes scheduled for clinical instruction or Health Science classes completing service learning will follow the previously established spring 2021 schedule and approved health and safety protocols. Faculty completing individual academic research may continue to do so and

those activities should be coordinated and approved by their respective Dean and conform to approved health and safety.

Timeline Summary

- January 25: spring 2021 semester begins
- January 25 – February 7: all classes held virtually
- February 8: previously approved in-person classes begin
- March 15-21: spring recess
- March 22 – April 4: all classes held virtually
- March 31: campus closed for Cesar Chavez holiday
- April 5: approved in-person classes continue as scheduled

These timelines for resuming in-person classes will be subject to change, depending upon regional conditions related to COVID-19.

Because face to face offerings are being delayed, there may be additional considerations that will need to be made by the Dean to ensure the existing credit hours can be maintained. This may include a hybrid of face to face and virtual instruction. These considerations will need to be addressed in a timely matter so as to provide faculty, staff and students ample time to make necessary adjustments. Faculty who need additional guidance or have questions should discuss with their respective Dean. Students who have questions should contact their professors directly. Staff who have questions should inquire with their supervisor.

In order to provide sufficient time for students, faculty and staff to make necessary adjustments, as well as provide additional measures for the continued health and safety of our community, the campus community should be notified of these adjustments as soon as possible. A draft message to the community from President Beck is attached.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

- Draft message to the community from President Beck

CURRENT UPDATE: N/A

SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS: N/A

To: Students and Employees
From: president@csuci.edu
Subject: Adjusted Spring 2021 Schedule
Date: Dec. 14, 2020

Dear Campus Community:

To follow up on my last communication regarding the need for the campus to review our instructional plans for spring 2021, the Spring Planning Task Force (SPTF) recently met to discuss necessary adjustments to our schedule in consideration of the ongoing surge of COVID-19 cases across our region and state.

In order to provide sufficient time for students, faculty and staff to make necessary adjustments, as well as provide additional measures for the continued health and safety of our campus community, our spring 2021 schedule has been adjusted as follows:

The spring 2021 semester will begin as scheduled on January 25, 2021; however, all classes will be held virtually through February 7. Those classes which were previously approved for in-person instruction may begin in-person instruction on February 8.

Spring recess will continue as scheduled for March 15-21; however, beginning March 22 all classes including those previously scheduled for in-person, will be held virtually through April 4. The campus will be closed Wednesday, March 31 for the Cesar Chavez holiday. Classes approved for in-person instruction will be held in person again starting April 5.

Nursing classes scheduled for clinical instruction and Health Science classes completing service learning will follow the previously established spring 2021 schedule. Faculty completing individual academic research may continue to do so and those activities should be coordinated and approved by their respective Dean.

Timeline Summary

- January 25: spring 2021 semester begins
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- April 5: approved in-person classes continue in person as scheduled

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Faculty who need additional guidance or have questions should discuss with their respective Dean. Students who have questions should contact their professors directly. Staff who have questions should inquire with their supervisor.

We understand the ongoing pandemic is distressing and anxiety producing for many people. If you would like to talk to someone about how this situation is impacting you, support and resources are available for the campus community. Students may contact [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) and employees may contact the [Employee Assistance Program](#).

We will continue to provide updates as needed and recommend that the campus community visit our website regularly for updates at: go.csuci.edu/fall-2020.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience as we get through this situation together. I wish you all a safe and healthy winter break.

Sincerely,
Erika D. Beck, Ph.D.
President