



OFFICE of the PROVOST

November Divisional Update

I am sending this divisional update as a follow-up to President Saunders' [State of the University Address](#). I want to express my continued admiration for the faculty and staff of our division who simply keep going in the face of continuing challenges. I also want to thank our colleagues who worked tirelessly during and immediately following Hurricane Sally to ready our campus for reopening. Those efforts included facilities, finance, procurement, police, environmental health, ITS, housing and others. And UWF's communications team always keeps us informed on the latest developments. It is inspiring to see the commitment that keeps our campus safe and operational for students, staff and faculty.

Here are the latest updates that I want to summarize for our division.

The remainder of the post-Sally semester has been reconfigured. There is no simple, one-size solution for making up instructional time, but I trust that replacing a formal exam week with instructional time will provide flexibility at the course/section level while not extending the semester. Please keep in mind that we will also transition to remote instruction after Thanksgiving break, although campus will remain open and operational during this time.

In consultation with the deans, I adjusted deadlines for tenure, promotion and sustained performance evaluation applications. This revised timeline provided more time for faculty to prepare and submit materials.

The Center for Global Online Learning and Development (GOLD) has returned to campus and is based in building 53 along with the Center for University Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CUTLA). This move will provide more access for faculty and an even stronger presence in the online learning environment. I know we all appreciate the support faculty have received in the face of continued remote delivery of courses. You will hear more as this evolves. Many thanks to Claudia Stanny for her role in welcoming GOLD into the CUTLA spaces. I also want to remind all of us that we neither desire to nor can we become an online-only campus. Face-to-face and hybrid instruction are vitally important to our students, as well as remote delivery. I appreciate the efforts we are making to provide students options for taking courses in various modalities in the current environment and to offer face-to-face opportunities when possible.

Florida State University/Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) was selected as the new host for the Florida Virtual Campus. The MOU driving the shift from UWF to FSU/NWRDC has been signed with December 1 as the target date for completion of this project. I want to thank Bob Dugan for his outstanding and continuing service as interim director of FLVC during a challenging chapter in its history.

November 5, 2020

The two most compelling concerns for the division and the University remain COVID-19 and the economy's impact on state funding. It will be impossible to maintain the status quo in the current budget environment, but we must maintain focus on delivering the highest quality courses and programs possible despite myriad challenges. In addition, Performance-Based Funding and Metrics have not and will not go away. Maintaining enrollment, using divisional resources judiciously and focusing on our core mission are three keys to seeing our way through the stormy seas to the lee shore over the next two years or so. If the storm lifts before then, all the better, but let us be prepared for the longer journey.

I want to end on a positive note. Fortunately, that is easy to do.

- UWF earned **5 Best Colleges 2021 badges**, one more than last year;
- UWF was named a Great Place to Work;
- The UWF Center for Cybersecurity received a \$6 million grant; and
- President Saunders has been named a member of the "[Florida 500.](#)" Her leadership is one of the greatest advantages that UWF possesses. Please feel free to let her know that our division is proud of this achievement, as well as the numerous milestones outlined in her recent State of the University address.

I think we are all looking forward to calmer waters, but until the seas are smoother, I am confident that we will continue to work together to transform the lives of our students, and in so doing, improve our community, region and state.

Sincerely, and with respect,

George

November 5, 2020