



Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you one last time as the Chair of the Senate Council, as my two year term comes to a close today. I have learned so much during my time in this role, and am incredibly grateful to the faculty, staff, students, and administrators with whom I have worked in various capacities over the past two years. Serving as Senate Council Chair has been a great honor, and I step down feeling incredibly optimistic about the future of our university, and of higher education more generally. Certainly, the past three months are not what any of us imagined, and we do not yet know what the next three months and the fall semester have in store for us. However, our community is full of dedicated and passionate thinkers and leaders, who face this uncertainty with a commitment to do what is best.

I have been especially heartened in these past few weeks seeing the engagement of our faculty colleagues with the planning efforts for the fall semester. We received over 250 nominations from over 75 nominators for participation in the EOC Workgroups. The work done by these Workgroups is just the beginning of what we will all have to do for the fall semester and beyond. I encourage you all to engage in the important work of shared governance in your departments and colleges, as well as through the University Senate. Our Senate Committees all have space for non-senators, and we welcome faculty from across campus to join our committees. You can learn more about the committees and their work [here](#).

I have great confidence in the Senate Council and in Aaron Cramer, whose term as Chair starts tomorrow, and who introduces himself to you later in this newsletter. The Senate Council will continue meeting over the course of the summer, and you can find the dates of those meetings at the bottom of this email. As always, I encourage you to reach out to your Senate representatives with your questions and concerns.

Thank you for all of your support and for your commitment to our community. I look forward to seeing you back on campus soon.

Warmly,



Jennifer

Jennifer Bird-Pollan
Senate Council Chair
Robert G. Lawson Professor of Law
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Dear Colleagues,

While it is a very challenging time to be assuming the role of Senate Council Chair, I do so with a recently renewed sense of optimism. Dr. Jennifer Bird-Pollan has very graciously worked to include me in many of the conversations that have occurred over the last three months, and I have learned much through this extended period of transition. We have both worked vigorously to ensure that this shift in Senate leadership is as smooth as possible. This process has been arduous, but it has been worth it. You have good ideas and care about our institution and the people it serves. We have seen this in the volume of comments that you submitted in response to the concept papers. We have seen this in the large number of individuals who volunteered or who nominated themselves or others to serve on the various workstreams. I am certain we will continue to see this as we move forward.

This enthusiasm to engage in these serious discussions about the future of our institution has been inspiring to me. The Senate performs its roles in shared governance and representation of its constituents best when everyone works together. There are many opportunities to continue this work, which is vital to the success of our shared enterprise:

- Continue to raise your voices in the venues you have.
- Speak up in your departments, schools, and colleges to ensure that these units benefit from your wisdom.
- Communicate your concerns with your senators.
- Serve on Senate and other committees that need faculty input (most Senate committees may have non-senator members).
- Run for Senate yourself or encourage those you know to do so.

The outpouring of concern for our institution's future has been exciting, but we should not lose this momentum. This is our institution, and I look forward to working with you as we continue to chart its path.

Aaron



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Senate Council Summer Meeting Dates

June 1, 2020

June 22, 2020

July 13, 2020

August 3, 2020

All meetings via video conference from 3:00-5:00

Academic Policies in Response to COVID-19

Academic Policies across campus are being amended in response to COVID-19. Please visit the [University Senate Spring 2020 Academic Policies in Response to COVID-19](#) for FAQs and the most up-to-date information.

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