Dear USA Student:

As we look forward to the start of the fall term and the reopening of campus, we wanted to share with you some of the changes that you may see in your fall courses. As we reopen, our first priority is to ensure the safety of everyone who comes back on campus - students, faculty, and staff. As you have heard from President Waldrop, this will include a revised academic calendar, required masks, and social distancing.

In addition, you may see changes to the way your courses are delivered. We expect that most course sections this fall that were originally scheduled to meet on campus will still do so at their listed times. However, to maintain safe social distancing in the classroom, many of these course sections will need to divide the class into smaller groups of students that will meet at different times of the week.

For example, a course section that originally was scheduled to meet MWF from 8:00 - 8:50 may need to be broken into two or more groups, with one group meeting Mondays 8:00 - 8:50, another Wednesdays 8:00 - 8:50, and so on. The remaining course materials and activities will be provided to you online. At the start of the fall semester, your instructors will notify you if such a divided schedule is needed, and which days and times you should arrive in the classroom on campus. As the semester starts, you will be able to find this information on the course site, Canvas, and your instructor may email you this information as well using your JagMail email accounts.

Please note that since classes will still be filling in the first week, your instructors may not have your exact meeting schedule ready until then, after they know how many students are in the course. Remember that fall classes start on August 17th and the last day to add a class is August 20th.

There are also some courses that were originally scheduled to be taught on campus this fall which will now be delivered remotely with no on-campus meetings. For most of these, the course will still meet at the listed time but will do so remotely (online) rather than in the classroom. In these cases, you will still need to keep the listed course meeting times free in your schedule. In some cases, courses were changed to a fully online section that will not have required meeting times. If you have a fall course section that was changed in one of these ways, the department offering the course has likely communicated this to you by email.

You can also check the status of the courses in your fall schedule in PAWS or in South Scheduler, where a note has been added to any sections that were changed. Most courses with section numbers that are not in the 800s will meet on campus at the designated meeting time although these may be divided into smaller attendance groups as described earlier. Some of these courses may be meeting online at the designated course times rather than on campus. For these courses, the description in PAWS will state that the course will be taught in a fully remote format, and that participation in online activities may be required during the listed class time. Courses with section numbers in the 800s will be fully online and will not have designated
meeting times. If you have questions about your schedule, please contact your academic advisor.

We know that the pandemic has required us all to make changes in our expectations for life on- and off-campus this fall, and we appreciate your continued willingness to work together with us to ensure everyone’s safety.

G. David Johnson

Provost and Senior Vice President

Academic Affairs