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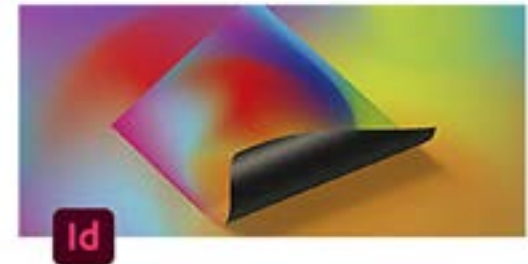
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LOVE
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USF tackles systemic racism with resources, dialogue, programs



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

six-week program will consist of discussions in which participants can express their views in a “candid and safe environment,” according to Brown.

“[Participants] will have the opportunity to explore the assumptions and values that underlie long-held beliefs on race, starting from the top all the way down,” Brown said.

Students who register to participate in the study circle will have to attend weekly two-hour meetings on Microsoft Teams during a six-week period. With about 12-15 spots available, students interested in registering will need to email Patsy Sanchez, director of diversity and inclusion.

“This [study circle] is unique in that we’re pairing individuals, we do not want a group of individuals who are coming from the same unit or the same department or the same college, in fact, we want to diversify each cohort on a number of demographics and a number of factors that are going to come into play, to create these groups,” Sanchez said. “The idea is that we want individuals to be as different in their views and in their identities so they can have a good dialogue with each other.”

The dates and times for the study circle meetings are not yet finalized, according to Sanchez. At the end of the six-week period, the participants will develop a project based on the meeting’s takeaways.

“The next step will be to ... match individuals, to bring individuals to this small circle, based on a number of factors so that they can work together in



Initiatives like a two-hour, six-week study circle on Microsoft Teams coming this fall will open up dialogue among students and faculty about race and racial injustices to teach anti-racist behaviors. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

a safe environment that allows for a very candid discussion,” Sanchez said. “And ultimately, results in enough, you know, trust that they can together work on a project that they’ll bring to fruition.”

Besides the study circles, DIEO will continue to offer implicit bias training throughout the fall semester. The training, which is one of DIEO’s most requested and offered training across campus, will allow participants to look into the thought process involved with implicit bias as well as challenge stereotypes and behaviors.

As a way to provide an additional resource to the USF community, the Office of Student Success and DIEO will be partnering up to create the Principles of Community Affirmation Team (PCAT), a forum for students, faculty and staff to address behaviors or actions that appear to violate

the university’s Principles of Community.

“Occasionally things are said or done online or in person that some people of our community may feel are inconsistent with our values. And we would like to be able to not just respond to that particular incident, but in the process, try to affirm what we believe in and educate our community about those principles,” Vice President Student Success Paul Dosal said.

“The last thing we want to do is create a team that is going to monitor speech and behavior,” Dosal said. “We’re not going to do that. Instead what we want to do is educate the community, and be able to promote in an affirmative way the principles that we hold dear.”

Brown said the PCAT will be launched sometime in the fall semester.

For instance, over the summer, Dosal said a staff member made

a post on social media that some considered to be offensive and were concerned about their safety. While they weren’t sure how to address it, they brought it to Dosal and Brown’s attention, who referred the incident to University Police (UP), general council and the student code of conduct.

When evaluating possible actions, Dosal said they addressed the concerns directly with the staff.

“We took steps to affirm what we believe in, we took steps to address concerns expressed by staff in a way that I hope can serve as perhaps a model for the kind of practice we want this team to do once it’s set up,” Dosal said.

Dosal said the team will sort the cases as they come in and, depending on each case, they might be referred to other departments, including the



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RESOURCES

Continued from PAGE 5

Student Code of Conduct or even UP.

“So first, they have to triage it and determine if it’s an incident or case that the team should take a look at rather than refer out,” Dosal said.

The PCAT for the Tampa campus will consist of about 12-15 members. Dosal said the St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee campuses will also have their own, but smaller in size.

The idea to create a similar team was first proposed in 2016 under the name of the Bias Response Team. However, due to concerns regarding freedom of speech and the team’s name, the idea was never implemented.

“Rather than a response team, where we are reacting, we’re creating a Principles of Community Affirmation Team,” Dosal said. “We want to take a positive role and it’s very much an educational role. And I think that the educational role is a key difference. We want to help the community understand the

values that we’re promoting and what that means in practice.”

As part of USF’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, Associate Professor in the Sociology Department Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman was appointed on Aug. 4 as the Senior Adviser to the President and Provost on Diversity and Inclusion. She will advise university leadership on new initiatives related to anti-racism and cultural inclusivity as it relates to students, staff and faculty.

While working as a liaison between deans, USF Senate and diversity councils, Hordge-Freeman will help set priorities, objectives as well as performance metrics for the university.

Less than a month into the role, Hordge-Freeman said she has spent most of her time “listening, learning and identifying opportunities for growth at USF.”

“My goal is to work with leaders around campus to institutionalize the type of anti-racist initiatives that lead to long-term institutional change,

and that, ultimately, eliminate the stark racial differences that are caused by systemic racism,” Hordge-Freeman wrote in an email to The Oracle.

Back in June, Hordge-Freeman was among 81 Black faculty members and staff who wrote a letter to Currall urging the university to develop concrete anti-racist practices as well as take action toward addressing systemic racism within the community. The letter also advocated for the review of university police policies and procedures, evaluation of pay disparities and the recruitment of more Black employees.

As a direct response to the letter, the Offices of the Provost and USF Research and Innovation launched a \$500,000 research grant program to support 12-month interdisciplinary projects focused on understanding and addressing the effects of systemic racism at the local, national and international levels.

Applications for the research grant program were open to tenured/tenure-track, full-time research faculty members and instructors or administrators with research assignments at USF. The deadline to submit proposals was on Aug. 17.

To support and guide the initiative, the university formed a 41-member task force composed of faculty and staff from all three campuses — Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee — who have done extensive research around the topic of race, inequality, Blackness and anti-Black racism within the community.

Co-Chair of the task force Prithvi Mukherjee said the research grant program will serve as seed grants to encourage and support researchers to seek additional funding in the future to further develop their studies.

“We hope that these research grants will see future

contributions from private and corporate donors, as well as from external funding agencies ... We want to get the seed grants out as soon as possible, so that faculty can start working on it and address these issues because the issues are very timely, and we have to find solutions,” Mukherjee said.

The sustained solutions to this will of course depend on the success through the seed grants. But the external funding will be more than the initial investment that the university is making.”

Antoinette Jackson, professor and chair of the anthropology department, is among the members of the task force. From participating in drafting the research’s proposal to engaging in meaningful conversations on issues of systemic racism and how they play out, Jackson said that having a diverse task force was essential for its success.

“It was very fulfilling for me in the sense that I got a chance to be part of such a large team across all the university, all invested in this question of anti-Black racism and how to address that,” Jackson said. “Having the combination of all people from engineering, social sciences, medicine and everywhere around the university really made this a really wonderful experience and it improved the proposal.”

For Hordge-Freeman, who is also a member of the task force, the research fund will have a multidimensional impact across different communities.

“What I believe is the most exciting outcome is that the community will benefit directly from our research, and this will pave the way for future collaborations that can lead to additional practical solutions that address the structural problems facing Black communities and families,” Hordge-Freeman said.

The number and total amount of grants awarded are

based on the proposal’s scope and scalability, degree of impact and potential to secure external funding in the future. There are three different tiers to apply for, each with a cap on the total amount of funding received for each proposal.

Tier I will fund proposals up to \$30,000 while tier II and III will fund proposals up to \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively. A total of 43 proposals have been submitted and the awards will most likely be distributed by the end of August, according to Mukherjee.

Jackson said USF’s investment in the research fund is only the beginning.

“It’s one thing to say you’re going to do it. It’s another thing if you’re actually invested in it, and the university has shown that they’re willing to invest,” Jackson said. “Showing to the community that you are really ready to put resources toward something that you feel are important is a good initial step, and it puts us in line with other major universities and institutions that are addressing these kinds of concerns.”

Despite the initiatives being new, Brown said the university has always been committed to addressing such issues, but now, under the leadership of Currall, it is doing so with a stronger sense of urgency.

“The murder of George Floyd put a lot of emphasis on the issues that we wanted to address,” Brown said. “It gave them a new sense of urgency, particularly when it comes to recognizing racism and how racism impacts our students, our faculty and our community.

“It fits right into our principles, but it goes at the root of the issue of racism so we can begin to lay out anti-racism strategies and anti-racism messages with a sense of urgency.”



The Principles of Community Affirmation Team (PCAT) will consist of 12-15 members who will help the USF community address behaviors or actions that appear to violate the university’s Principles of Community.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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Free face masks, hand sanitizers, 'health and safety measures' in place for fall semester



Lauren Pieper

STAFF WRITER

Making reservations to study in the library, wearing a face covering in class and swiping their USF ID card on a vending machine to get free hand sanitizers may seem like a concept from a dystopian movie, but it is now the reality for USF students.

Students can expect to be met with changes as they step

foot on campus as precautionary measures have been put in place to allow for social distancing, and students will also need to make personal changes by following the new rules and regulations USF has to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Not having access to a face covering will not be an acceptable excuse as all USF students will be given two free washable face coverings, according to the Student Guidance for Fall 2020.

Multiple locations will be distributing face coverings across campus. Students on the Tampa campus can pick up their complimentary masks at the Marshall Student Center information desk. Also, on-campus residents will be



To prevent the spread of COVID-19, USF has implemented various precautionary measures before the arrival of students on campus, and students are expected to play their part or potentially face disciplinary action. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

receiving another free mask in their residential hall.

Besides free face masks, the

university has been revamping the campus over the summer to be full of precautionary measures

in aiding students and faculty in remembering the communal

[See MEASURES on PAGE 30](#)

The new reality of living and dining on campus



Jorgelina Manna-Rea

STAFF WRITER

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Housing and Residential Education and Dining Services have set forth on the considerable task of reconfiguring spaces, training staff and setting up sanitization routines as students prepare to live the bulls' life and dine on campus.

Many of the newly established practices and installations — socially distancing spaces, mask requirements and plexiglass barriers — have already been

put to practice as students moved on campus Aug. 16.

Not only did the pandemic impact guidelines and protocols in place at residence halls, but also the total occupancy for the fall semester.

"Our residency in St. Pete, maybe it's 40 percent, not 90 percent. Tampa, I guess, we're closer to 60 [percent]," said Board of Trustees (BOT) Vice Chair Stephanie Goforth regarding on-campus housing capacity for the fall semester during the BOT meeting on Aug. 19.

Once students have settled into their rooms on campus, their lives will look a bit different than in past years, especially socially, as all Residential Education activity has moved entirely online, according to Assistant Vice President of Housing and Residential Education Ana

Hernandez.

This includes community gatherings and hall activities, most often convened by residential assistants (RAs) in order to bring the residential community closer together.

In addition, no visitors and overnight guests will be allowed in dorm rooms. Communal spaces, laundry rooms and elevators may be restricted or have a limited capacity.

Only residents of an assigned building are permitted and have access to enter their building, and only one other building resident will be allowed as a guest in one's assigned room.

In case a resident tests positive for COVID-19 or has been in contact with someone who tested positive, Housing and Residential Education has identified isolation spaces at the

Tampa and St. Pete campus to accommodate those students. About 250 beds have been reserved between campuses for any students who may have to self-isolate, which will leave the Tampa campus with 150 beds while the remaining 100 will be located at the St. Pete campus.

If the demand for isolation spaces is greater than its supply on the Tampa campus, then students will be shifted to an isolation space at the St. Pete campus.

"We are working very closely with [Student Health Services] with regards to the assessment of who would need to be isolated or go to the isolation location," said Hernandez. "If it is deemed necessary for someone to go into isolation that is a residential student and if they are not able to safely return home to spend

that isolation time, then those individuals would be sent to the isolation halls."

Hernandez declined to comment on which buildings would serve as the isolation halls on either campus.

"We will be sharing that information with the students that have the need to relocate there," said Hernandez.

Individuals who are isolated in these halls will be taken care of through "COVID Care Teams," who will help satisfy medical, physical and mental health needs and help students stay connected with academic support.

Although social interaction will be limited in housing spaces, students will have more of an opportunity to enjoy time with peers in dining halls.

[See STUDENT LIFE on PAGE 17](#)



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Some students concerned, others confident about return to campus and safety measures



Lauren Pieper

STAFF WRITER

With the resumption of face-to-face classes, students are still wondering whether the university is prepared enough to contain the spread of the virus while welcoming thousands of people back on campus after universities across the country reported a spike in COVID-19 cases only a week into the semester.

After a handful of universities have gone remote weeks after bringing students back to campus, many students are uneasy about the fate of USF's in-person classes, living and activities as COVID-19 shows no mercy with rapid infections among college students.

The University of Notre Dame recently shifted online after over 100 people tested positive for COVID-19 and said it will be virtual for a minimum of 14 days, according to The New York Times on Aug. 18.

Michigan State University decided to cancel the plans for students, faculty and staff to come back to campus two weeks before students planned on moving into their dorms, according to Inside Higher Ed, a news source pertaining to universities.

In an article published on Aug. 20, Forbes detailed more universities that have had issues with COVID-19 since reopening some of their on-campus activities. The article said the entire student body of Northeast



While many universities had to go remote after an influx of positive COVID-19 cases following the first week of classes, some students worry that USF acted too soon while others are comfortable with the safety measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

Mississippi Community College is under quarantine and has had 53 confirmed student cases overall. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill canceled its in-person classes just seven days after classes began.

Despite the odds, USF Spokesperson Adam Freeman said the university is prepared to take action and do whatever necessary as situations arise.

"USF continues to monitor public health data on a daily basis to make evidence-based decisions that prioritize health and safety when evaluating whether to remain in the current phase, proceed to the next phase or scale back to a previous phase," Freeman said. "USF's plan is intentionally designed to be flexible and can be adapted based on changing COVID-19 conditions."

As for USF, all in-person classes that have been approved

are set to happen, but some students are not hopeful regarding how long it will take these classes to go remote.

Nandini Agarwal, a senior majoring in finance and accounting, said she believes that all classes should be taught virtually this semester to prevent an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Since she is scheduled to graduate in December, she also said graduation should be held safely by following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, but feels a ceremony will only be possible if the proper precautionary behaviors are taken throughout the semester.

"It's not actually that imperative to open campus in the fall and I don't see the rush to do so," Agarwal said. "What's more important is that we are able to stay healthy and be able to honor

n See STUDENTS on PAGE 21

Fresh look: USF updates campus entrance monuments, signs



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

The old USF academic logo — the "USF" in a block-like font with the "University of South Florida" under it — is in its final days as the university updates monuments and signs across campus to feature the Bull-U academic logo.

The Office of Administrative Services started phase I of a three-phased project on July 22 by updating all monument signage around the perimeter of the Tampa campus, including three corner monuments, the main entrance monuments between LeRoy Collins Boulevard and East Fowler Avenue and the monuments located at the intersection of USF Palm Drive and East Fletcher Avenue.

The university also updated monuments at 10 different university entrances, the corner

monument signage for "The Claw" golf course, the digital sign monument between LeRoy Collins Boulevard and USF Alumni Drive and the USF Riverfront Park entrance monument.

With a budget of \$181,000, Assistant Director of Communications for Administrative Services Aaron Nichols said the final cost for all of the signage removal, monument maintenance and painting as well as signage installation was \$175,000 for the Tampa campus. Funded by facilities management, Nichols said the funds were carried forward from the 2017 Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) budget.

"There was quite a bit of work involved," Nichols said. "It wasn't just a matter of popping off the old logo and it was stuff that really needed to be done ... they were ready for a facelift anyway."

With funds still remaining, Nichols said the Office of Administrative Services will also be updating the USF signage on the north side of the Student Services building at the Tampa campus — a popular photo spot for graduation pictures.



While the old USF academic logo needed a "facelift," the Office of Administrative Services cannot move on with its three-phased plan to update signs inside buildings until it develops a plan to finance the next phases. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

n See SIGNAGES on PAGE 30



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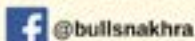
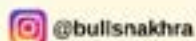


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10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Every Second Wednesday of the Month
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Every Third Monday of the Month
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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Embracing the Slow Grind



Nolan Brown

SPORTS EDITOR

Former USF running back D'Ernest Johnson knows all too well how to take it slow and steady. After all, his opportunity with the Cleveland Browns wasn't exactly handed to him.

By no means did his dream of playing in the NFL come easy. Johnson knew he would have to toil if he was going to make it. So he decided to embody his journey to the pros in his very own line of athletic clothing.

Enter, Slow Grind apparel.

"I've been going on my slow grind since back in high school because whatever you chase there's a grind to it," Johnson said. "Slow Grind, it stands for staying focused on the ultimate goal. Sometimes the process don't come fast, it takes time."

The logo symbolizes taking it slow in life and was inspired by the classic tale "The Tortoise and the Hare." The turtle will get there eventually, but it won't be right away, Johnson said.

"No matter how long it takes he's gonna get there," he said. "He can go in the middle of the street, get ran over a little bit, or anything, but at the same time he's focused on ambition."

Having scored 29 touchdowns in 4,186 yards, he left USF and



Former USF and current Cleveland Browns running back D'Ernest Johnson (holding football) during a 2019 preseason game against Washington. Johnson started Slow Grind apparel, which embodies his unconventional journey to the NFL.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ERIK DROST

entered the 2018 NFL draft ready for any team that would select him.

Except no team selected Johnson. He was picked up by the Saints as an undrafted free agent but only lasted the rookie minicamp.

That's when he decided to take a break from football and wound up in Key West fishing for mahi-mahi. If football wasn't going to put food on the table, he had to do something, he said.

"I didn't have any options really," Johnson said. "I was like, 'Man, I gotta do something.' I had to do whatever it takes to provide for my son."

It definitely helped that fishing was already something he enjoyed. But he knew football was his end goal.

"I actually enjoy fishing, even when I was little I liked fishing," Johnson said. "Fishing was fun, but that wasn't something I wanted to stick to and make that my career."

As much as it sounded like paradise, it was hard on Johnson and his girlfriend, Jasmine.

"That was honestly a really difficult time for us," she said.

"He's been playing football his whole life, so for him to have to take such a long break for the first time in his life it was really

rough. He actually beat himself up about it a little bit.

"I just had to constantly remind him to keep his focus on making it to the league."

A full calendar year went by before Johnson finally made his return to football, and he signed with the Orlando Apollos of the now-defunct Alliance of American Football.

The league didn't last a full season until it folded, and once again, Johnson was temporarily out of work.

He signed with the Cleveland Browns a month after the AAF folded and was given his biggest opportunity yet.

Like Johnson's football career, Slow Grind took its time getting fully off the ground. The idea has been around since at least his time in high school, but the online store didn't launch until May. The shop sells branded hats, shirts and tanks in men's, women's and kids' sizes.

Johnson has since returned to camp with the Browns, so he hasn't had much time to focus on the business. His brother Tshumbi, a former wide receiver at Cincinnati, and Jasmine have helped keep the site running and fulfilling orders.

"Business has been good,"

See SLOW GRIND on PAGE 20

STUDENT LIFE

Continued from PAGE 10

While Dining Services has also made changes similar to those of Housing and Residential Education to deter the spread of COVID-19, students will still be able to eat together in small groups when they arrive at the dining halls.

“So the tables have been reconfigured and the seats are six feet apart, but the way the tables are clustered, you still could enjoy meals with friends or with a friend,” said Jessica Cicalese, USF’s Dining Services marketing director.

Those who enter the dining hall will still have to socially distance from others, as well as wear a mask until they are seated at their tables to eat.

Selecting what food to order will also be a different routine. To-go orders will be encouraged by staff to those who walk through the door, and regardless of whether you’re dining in or out, food will most likely be prepackaged.

“We like to say ‘safe and speedy,’ and it’s really thorough, made on site, prepackaged foods, more like grab-and-go options,” said Cicalese. “In the past we did everything made-to-order where we customize on the spot.

“We have paused that type of

service, so if someone still has food allergies, or if somebody cannot have an ingredient that is in already made or packaged item, we can absolutely make that for somebody, they just have to ask.”

As far as dining halls go, Juniper Dining, the Hub and Argos Exchange, including Flip Kitchen, Restaurant Rotation and Bay Coffee and Tea, will be open throughout the fall semester.

“All of our cashiers and our stations will have plexiglass coverings in between our employees and our guests to keep that contactless environment and our to-go options are definitely enhanced,” Cicalese said.

While the semester has just begun, the measures taken by USF Housing and USF Dining will definitely be tested as the volume of students on campus is increased in its facilities.

“The campus as a whole, including housing has certainly invested in trying to create an environment that adheres to the CDC on health and safety guidelines and trying to create an environment that will help students be successful,” said Hernandez. “There’s been a significant investment that’s been made throughout the campus, including housing.”



Dining halls across campus have implemented new cleaning protocols as well as relocated tables as a result of COVID-19. ORACLE PHOTO/ LEDA ALVIM

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For more information find us on BullSync or visit <http://expo.eng.usf.edu/visit> <http://expo.eng.usf.edu/>



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SLOW GRIND

Continued from PAGE 16

Tshumbi said, “A lot of different individuals have been shopping with us and that’s a pretty good thing.

“Just trying to stay on top of things because we never want to lose track of what we’re doing right now. At the end of the day, we’re all partners in this.”

In spite of the coronavirus pandemic, Slow Grind managed to take off and continue rolling. The pandemic gave D’Ernest and Jasmine time to finalize details.

“The pandemic actually helped a lot because me and my girl had time to work on the website, to work on getting all the merch,” D’Ernest said. “It wasn’t that hard shipping it out. We’ll bag the shirts up, and we’ll ship them out ourselves.”

In a way, D’Ernest’s dedication to his dream of getting into the NFL mirrors the diligence he has with Slow Grind apparel mirrors the peaks and valleys he went through.

But Slow Grind isn’t just for those pursuing a career in elite sports. It’s for anyone who wants to achieve something. Obstacles are going to come their way, and there isn’t always a simple way around them, D’Ernest said.

“People go through different obstacles and goals that they want to achieve, but sometimes you got to take a different route to achieve that goal,” he said.

An update on fall sports



Hannah Halili

STAFF WRITER

Somehow, sports are making their return to the fold after more than five months, but they definitely won’t look like how they used to and won’t be structured like normal.

There won’t be national championships for fall sports other than football, the NCAA announced on Aug. 13 due to the lack of schools that would be able to participate. NCAA President Mark Emmert said in a video that with such few schools participating, it wouldn’t be a fair tournament.

“We cannot now, at this point, have fall NCAA championships, because there’s not enough schools participating,” he said.

However, the Division I Board of Directors will be pursuing a viable way to have fall championships in the spring, the NCAA announced on Aug. 21.

Although teams won’t be competing for national titles, there’s still a shot at conference championships. Here’s what’s in store for each USF team’s league schedule this fall.

Women’s soccer

The Bulls are scheduled to play an eight-match single round-robin tournament with games taking place on Sundays. USF is expected to begin its season in Dallas against SMU on Sept. 6.



USF celebrates after scoring the game-winner against Washington to send the Bulls to the third round of the 2019 NCAA tournament. Fall sports, except for football, won’t compete for national titles in the fall, but there’s still a chance at conference glory. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN

USF is the reigning AAC champion. The Bulls made it to the third round of the NCAA tournament last season, their deepest run in program history but were defeated by FSU 2-1.

USF Conference Schedule

Sept. 6 — SMU, away
Sept. 13 — Temple, home
Sept. 27 — ECU, away
Oct. 4 — Tulsa, home
Oct. 11 — UCF, home
Oct. 18 — Houston, away
Oct. 25 — Memphis, home
Nov. 1 — Cincinnati, away
Friday, Nov. 6 — Semifinals
Sunday, Nov. 8 — Championship

Men’s Soccer

USF is scheduled to play a 10-match double round-robin of matches scheduled to take place on Saturdays. USF will play Temple at Corbett Stadium on Sept. 5 for the start of the season. Last season, the Bulls finished

third in the AAC, losing to eventual champion SMU 2-1 in double overtime. USF earned a spot in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2016, but were beaten 4-1 by Louisville in the first round.

USF Conference Schedule

Sept. 5 — Temple, home
Sept. 12 — SMU, home
Sept. 19 — UCF, away
Sept. 26 — Temple, away
Oct. 3 — Tulsa, home
Oct. 10 — Memphis, away
Oct. 17 — SMU, away
Oct. 24 — UCF, home
Oct. 31 — Memphis, home
Nov. 7 — Tulsa, away

Volleyball

The AAC has been divided into two divisions where each team will play each other twice. USF is part of the East Division along with UCF, Cincinnati, East Carolina and Temple. Teams are expected to begin league play

during the weekend of Sept. 24-27 and conclude Nov. 12-15.

USF Conference Schedule

Oct. 1 — Temple, home
Oct. 2 — Temple, home
Oct. 8 — East Carolina, away
Oct. 9 — East Carolina, away
Oct. 22 — Cincinnati, home
Oct. 23 — Cincinnati, home
Nov. 12 — UCF, away
Nov. 13 — UCF, away

Cross Country

Programs are allowed to schedule competitions at their discretion, but the USF cross country schedule has not yet been released.

The
Oracle
Podcast

Click the graphic above to listen to the Welcome Back edition of The Oracle Podcast hosted by Nolan Brown and Hannah Halili.

Learn about what USF women’s golf head coach Erika Brennan is doing to keep her players’ spirits high during the coronavirus pandemic, how she started her podcast Leading Beyond Sports and more.

The Oracle Podcast is available on Anchor and Spotify.

STUDENTS

Continued from **PAGE 12**

the individuals who have worked so hard for the past four years, and a lot of the current plans seem to put that in risk.”

Even though she said she feels classes should be remote, Agarwal recognizes virtual learning is difficult for many.

“I have to take high-level accounting and finance classes online which actually leads to bad grades because the learning is not the same,” she said. “You’re pretty much teaching yourself. In two of my classes we don’t even have lectures even when they are listed as hybrid.”

Despite feeling that she will not perform as well academically, Agarwal said it is necessary for the greater good.

“It’s a double-edged sword, however, good health takes precedence over quality education at this point,” Agarwal said. “In my opinion, classes should be online, but professors’ expectations of students should be lessened.”

Gunner, a senior majoring in civil engineering with a focus in environmental and water resources, who wishes to keep his last name anonymous, thinks that opening the university is the right decision overall, but said he recognized that not everyone will follow the guidelines.

“It is silly and wasteful to have signs on seats like benches,” he said. “It all just comes down to personal risk.”

His opinion, he said, comes from looking at the statistics.

“If it was like 20 percent of COVID-19 deaths were college aged I would have a different viewpoint on it, and I don’t think college aged [people] make up 1 percent of COVID-19 deaths,” Gunner said.

As of Aug. 19, people between the ages of 15 and 24 made up about 0.225 percent of COVID-19 deaths, according to the CDC.

A junior majoring in chemistry, who wishes to remain anonymous, is unable to return to campus due to health conditions.

“I am severely immunocompromised,” they said. “The prevention measures are not enough. A sign isn’t going to stop these people.”

After recently being in the hospital for a flareup with their medical conditions, they said coming back is just not worth the risk.

Disregarding the signage and restrictions on campus that have been put in place to keep students safe could result in not only removal from the area, but also being reported for disciplinary action, according to Althea Paul, USF’s media relations manager.

However, CJ Lopez, a senior majoring in economics, said people will not always follow the new rules.

“I don’t think the preventive measures they have in place are bad,” Lopez said. “I just think they’d be foolish to think that everyone will abide by them.”

Dean of Students Danielle McDonald released a statement saying it’s the duty of every student to keep other students accountable for their actions and to confront and report risky behaviors that could easily spread COVID-19.

For Gunner, the responsibility should be put on students to report their peers.

“I don’t think there is a problem with friends hanging out together, but they may be wary of it because they are afraid of punishment or being reported.”

Large gatherings are a part of the reason many universities have gone remote already.

According to The New York Times, two off-campus parties at the University of Notre Dame were connected back to fostering an environment for COVID-19 to be transmitted, and multiple



In order to mitigate the risks of contracting the virus, the university has placed numerous signs around campus to reinforce social distancing protocols. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

party-goers soon had positive tests after attending.

Some of the already remote colleges have attributed rising cases on their campuses to Fraternity and Sorority Life events.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases after reporting several clusters within the first week of classes, as well as the University of Washington’s Seattle Greek life, which has resulted in a minimum of 165 cases.

Gunner said he is not a proponent of overly crowded gatherings and does not think people should be throwing parties in close quarters, but said he hopes students won’t be reprimanded for spending time with friends.

“I don’t think hanging out with a group of people should be a reportable offense. ... I

hope the school wouldn’t try to punish those students or the organization they belong to,” he said.

Among much confusion, one student has found USF’s decisions to be positive for trying to keep students testing negative for COVID-19.

Ben Luttrell, a junior majoring in health sciences, said he thinks that those who need to be on campus should have the opportunity to do so.

“I find it to be encouraging that individuals who need a campus to come to, for whatever reason, have a place that is taking precautions and actively trying to prevent an outbreak instead of doing little and just expecting an outbreak,” he said.

Luttrell said that requiring students to test negative for COVID-19 before moving on campus, wearing face masks on campus and preventing

large gatherings are all useful precautions.

He sees the best of both worlds and said students who are worried about contracting the virus should have a virtual option for all the courses they need to take, but also those who prefer a face-to-face style of teaching would benefit from some classes being in person.

With still much uncertainty as to what will happen the first few weeks of students, faculty and staff coming to campus, Freeman said USF is prepared to make the same decision they did in March if need be.

“Faculty have been advised numerous times that they must be prepared to transition all classes to quality online delivery at any point during the fall semester, if the university deems appropriate based on COVID-19 conditions,” Freeman said.

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LGBTQ+ STUDENT ORGANIZATION

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P.R.I.D.E. Alliance

Fall 2020 Meeting Schedule:
Hosted on Teams @ P.R.I.D.E. Alliance GRP

Aug. 27, 7:30-9:30 pm,
"Trivia Night"

Sept. 24, 7:30-9:30 pm,
"Movie Night: TBD"

Oct. 22, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Sexual Health under the rainbow"

Sept. 3, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Welcome to P.R.I.D.E."

Oct. 1, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Trans 102"

Oct. 29, 7:30-9:30 pm,
"Spooky Halloween Night"

Sept. 10, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Support Group: COVID"

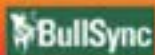

Oct. 8, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Support Group: Religion"

Nov. 5, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Movie Night: Carol"

Sept. 17, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Speed Friending"

Oct. 15, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Game Night"

Nov. 12, 5:30-7:15 pm,
"Support Group: TBD"

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Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the fall semester begins, students coming to campus will notice that a lot has changed in the last five months as a result of COVID-19.

Now, the USF community will have to adapt to a new reality consisting of stricter protocols, cleaning procedures and social distancing requirements when visiting some facilities around campus.

USF Library

The library is among many facilities across campus that has undergone significant changes in its operations, including the implementation of a reservation system for students interested in a quiet place to study.

Under the library's reservation system, students will have to reserve a seat in their desired area prior to their arrival. Each reservation will be up to three hours and if a student wishes to extend it, they can reserve multiple seats in a day through the USF Library website.

Once students reserve a seat, a confirmation email containing details about the reservation, including the selected time, seat number and floor, will be sent to their emails. A reservation confirmation email must be presented at the concierge desk to enter the library.

All seats will have QR codes for identification, which will be used to check in and out of their

seats. If a student doesn't check out, the reservation will remain active until its expiration.

Once inside the library, the use of face coverings will be required at all times, according to Dean of USF Libraries Todd Chavez. There will be hand sanitizer stations on every floor and social distancing will be strictly enforced, which means no group gatherings will be allowed.

As a way for students to maintain physical distance inside the library, Chavez said each floor's spaces have been reconfigured and some furniture has been removed to reduce the total seating capacity. Under normal circumstances, the library has a total of 2200 seats available, however, only 34 percent, or 780 seats, of its total capacity will be available in the fall.

In addition, barricade tape has been placed on furniture to prevent agglomeration as well as to respect social distancing guidelines.

"Under normal circumstances, the lobby would be full and we'd have people all over Starbucks, we'd have people all through the first, second and fifth floors, standing next to each other in some cases talking to one another," Chavez said. "All of that was part of our normal life in the library and we can't do that anymore."

Even riding the elevator will be subject to strict regulations, as only two people will be allowed on at a time.

An additional custodial crew of between 10-15 people will be in charge of regularly cleaning high-touch areas, including desktop countertops, elevator buttons, doorknobs, tables and printers.

As a result of COVID-19, pulling an all-nighter to study

for a test or finish a project in the library will not be possible in the near future as the library significantly reduced its hours of operations for the fall semester.

The library will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., Fridays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m. On Saturdays, the library will be closed for a "top to bottom, high-intensity cleaning," according to Chavez.

In addition to deep cleaning on Saturdays, Chavez said the custodial team will be sanitizing the facility every night after its closure as well as every time a shift is over.

The hours could be expanded further on in the semester based on the demand and the student's response, according to Chavez. However, he said the library won't be opening 24 hours, five days a week until USF reaches phase IV of its reopening plans when a vaccine is launched.

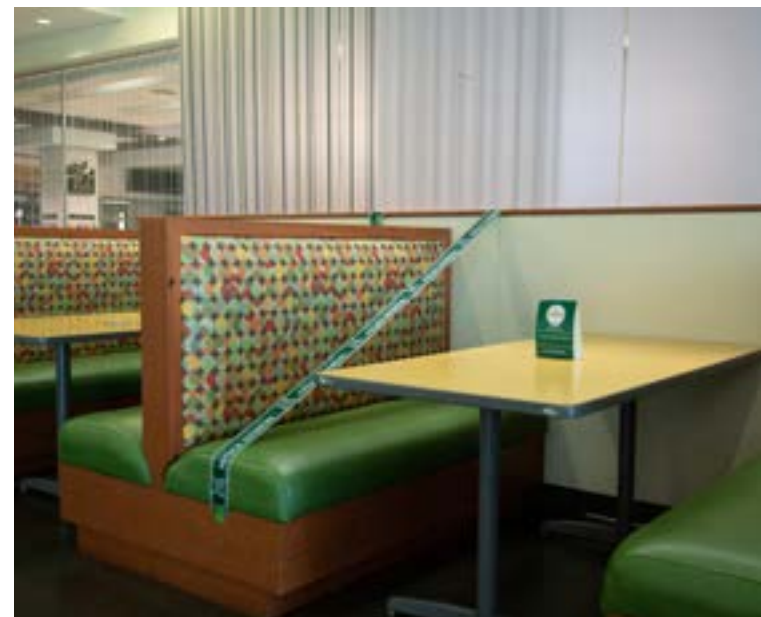
For those looking to recharge their energies with some caffeine from the Starbucks located on the first floor, their plans will need to be postponed.

Starbucks will be closed temporarily for remodeling to add an additional entry as a way to control traffic flow as well as facilitate entering the coffee shop. The Starbucks is set to reopen in October, according to Chavez.

Besides reducing hours, the USF Library will also be controlling entry into the facility, according to Chavez.

Access to the library will be restricted to currently enrolled students, faculty or staff with a valid USF ID. Those without a valid USF ID won't be allowed to enter or remain in the library.

With the library open, some of its student services will also



Buildings such as the library, Marshall Student Center and Recreation Center will have limited hours, seating and access for the fall semester to slow the spread of COVID-19. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

return with adjustments.

Students taking math-related classes this semester will have a different experience regarding the Smart Lab, especially when it comes to testing and tutoring.

While the Smart Lab will remain open for tutoring as well as computer access, it won't be administering testing during the fall semester. Chavez said that part of the Smart Lab will be reserved for students taking math-related courses and the rest will be available for any student to access the computers.

As a way to mitigate the risks of spreading the virus through one-on-one interaction, all tutoring and learning groups will be done virtually through Microsoft Teams. In addition, the Writing Studio will also be offering its services virtually by appointment starting Aug. 31.

Textbook rental will still be available to students during the fall semester, but with a twist.

Each book that's been checked out will be sanitized upon return, according to Chavez. After it's

sanitized with an alcohol-based spray, each material will be set aside for about an hour for a "quarantine" period, leading to delays and longer wait times for students interested in reserving textbooks, according to Chavez.

Although the library will look significantly different as a result of COVID-19, Chavez said all preventative measures as well as new cleaning protocols will be essential to ensuring a safe and healthy campus environment.

"It's going to take more planning for students in order to keep the university open and available to the students, and not end up back in a remote learning environment," Chavez said. "In order to do that, everything's going to kind of slow down a little bit. And we're going to have to plan more in order to be sure that everything gets taken care of."

Marshall Student Center

As the central point of
See **PROTOCOLS** on **PAGE 29**



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PROTOCOLS

Continued from **PAGE 26**

campus, the Marshall Student Center (MSC) is used to receiving thousands of visitors daily, either from being a walkway to class, a stop for a bite or the designated place for on-campus events and meetings.

Now, in light of COVID-19, the MSC made significant changes in its operations, protocols and usage of space to meet guidelines imposed by the university as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"We are still going to be the center of campus, we're just going to operate in a different form and function because we have larger spaces that can assist students to be able to have face-to-face interactions in a classroom," MSC Director Matt Marshall said.

"Where those things would normally take place in other places, now they can take place within our building, and we can help out the university and help out the student body by performing that function."

Under reduced hours, the MSC will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Marshall said the hours will adjust as demand necessitates.

As a way to promote the health and safety of the campus community, no in-person events, tabling, programs or meetings will be allowed for the fall semester. Per university rule, all student organization events, programs and meetings should be hosted virtually.

Instead of letting the dust accumulate in rooms originally meant to host meetings and events throughout the semester, the MSC decided to put them to better use by turning them into classrooms, study rooms and student lounges.

Throughout the week, the university will be hosting several classrooms across different conference rooms in the MSC, including the Ballroom and Oval Theater. To meet social distancing guidelines, the rooms have been restructured and the seats rearranged.

Under CDC guidelines, Ballroom A and B will have a capacity for 92 people. If the entire Ballroom was used, the maximum capacity would be over 1,000 people.

In contrast, the Oval Theater's total capacity is 703. After rearranging seats, the maximum capacity went down to 96 people.

Besides classrooms, the MSC will have 40 study rooms available free-of-charge for students looking for a quiet place to study by reservation. Depending on the room's size, it can fit multiple seats, 6 feet apart from each other, in each study room.

Students can check each room's availability through the MSC's website. To make a reservation, they will need to send an email one day in advance to the MSC staff requesting a specific time frame and room number.

Reservations will be available for two-hour time slots. Depending on the demand, additional study rooms could be added, according to Marshall.

"If we realize that those spaces are filling up quickly and students are utilizing those, then we will switch over some of our other spaces to additional study spaces as well," Marshall said.

A confirmation email will be sent regarding the reservation. Students will check in at the information desk on the first floor and receive a wristband for identification.

Students will also have designated lounges on a first-come, first-serve basis within the facility with seating options

available, including the food court, Panera Bread and the Skypad lounge.

Marshall said that all areas in the MSC will be sanitized after each use. After the building shuts down at the end of the day, the custodial crew will use disinfectant foggers to sanitize the entire facility.



In the Rec Center, all spaces have been reconfigured and equipment relocated to be 10 feet apart from each other to meet social distancing guidelines. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

Recreation and Wellness

After nearly five months closed, gyms across campus will finally make their comeback and welcome members with the start of the fall semester.

Students, faculty and staff will need to make a reservation to access any on-campus gym, including the Rec Center and the FIT. They will be able to make hour-and-15-minute reservations 25 hours ahead of time through the Recreation and Wellness website.

After each time slot, all gyms will be closed for a 15-minute sanitation period, where the custodial crew will be cleaning the facilities, including high-touch areas like door knobs and equipment, for the next round of reservations, according to Recreation and Wellness Director Jay Souza. During each time slot, the Rec Center will have a maximum capacity of 75

people, compared to 35 people in the FIT.

To manage the flow of traffic, members will need to check in and enter through the east gym lobby located across from Champion's Choice.

Face masks will be required upon entering and exiting the facility as well as when walking

around. The use of face coverings will not be enforced when exercising, according to Souza.

During phase II of USF's reopening plan, only the Rec Center and the FIT will be open. The WELL, located near USF Health off Bruce B Downs Blvd, will remain closed for the fall semester.

In addition, the USF Riverfront Park will be open from noon until 5 p.m. everyday for outdoor activities. The boat house will be open Friday through Sunday for kayak rentals.

When it comes to fitness classes, Souza said they are still creating the schedules and evaluating which classes can be performed while meeting social distancing guidelines. If classes are allowed, then it will have a capacity of under 10 people per class, according to Souza.

Some intramurals that don't require physical contact will be allowed, including softball, cornhole and kickball. More

updates will be announced in the coming weeks as Recreation and Wellness receives approval from the USF COVID-19 Task Force, according to Souza.

"We just can't do physical contact type sports," Souza said. "We have to keep the numbers low, so there's no basketball, flag football or soccer."

As a result of financial constraints placed by COVID-19, events and certain programs hosted by Recreation and Wellness will be put on hold, according to Souza.

Since its closure in March, Recreation and Wellness lost about 75 percent of its membership revenue. Without considering its Activity and Service Fees allocation, Recreation and Wellness usually generates between \$180,000 and \$300,000 per year in memberships.

Despite the challenges, Souza remains optimistic to get back to business and welcome back members for the new semester ahead.

"I think that everything's going to come back to normal, in fact, I think when this is all done, we'll probably come back stronger than ever. If not, we'll have more participation throughout everything because students are really desiring that connection with other students."

While different facilities across campus have implemented new protocols and regulations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Chavez said successful mitigation will also rely on everyone's personal responsibility to comply with the new protocols.

"Big universities with good, strong health plans have had to close again because of outbreaks on their campuses. We don't want to be in that list," Chavez said. "We want to be able to open and make this work and keep everybody from getting sick."

MEASURES

Continued from **PAGE 10**

responsibilities that come with being back on campus, such as wearing a mask and keeping a 6-foot distance from others.

“There are numerous efforts in place to help students, faculty and staff understand the new health and safety guidelines,” USF’s Media Relations Manager Althea Paul said. “Staff has installed nearly 48,000 pieces of signage and decals developed to reinforce the community’s shared responsibility to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

Of course, all of these precautions come with a cost.

“So far, USF has invested approximately \$2.3 million in health and safety measures,” Paul said. “This number includes costs for signage, stickers, sanitizing wipes, masks, enhanced cleaning, plexiglass and various other related items.”

According to Paul, signage, stickers and the caution tape alone has cost the university approximately \$149,000.

Many of the community seating areas have the majority of the chairs closed off with branded tape that says “Do not sit here,” “Thank you for practicing social distancing” and “Physical distancing.” Tables also have stickers on them with the same message.

All of these precautions are being mandated, enforced and funded by USF.

All students, faculty and staff will be held accountable for their actions in order to keep those on campus as safe from contracting COVID-19 as possible.

“Maintaining physical distancing is a required behavior on campus,” Paul said. “If people are seen to be violating this or any other related health and safety policies, they can be asked to leave the room, building or campus and reported to the Office of Student Conduct

and Ethical Development or Human Resources for possible disciplinary action.”

Not only are on-campus precautionary measures being taken seriously, but even off-

campus events are to be avoided and those who participate in parties or social events risk getting referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office.



The use of face coverings as well as the practice of social distancing will be strictly enforced and violators will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

campus events are to be avoided and those who participate in parties or social events risk getting referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office.

Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Danielle McDonald said in a statement on Aug. 20 that if a student becomes aware of another student engaging in risky behavior concerning the spread of COVID-19, they should contact her or make a referral to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development Office.

“It is important that all of our students help keep this community safe and healthy,” McDonald said. “Faculty and staff have worked tirelessly for the past five months to be able

to provide an in-person campus experience, however it is now on you to ensure the campus remains open.”

In alignment with this statement from the dean, Paul

said that these responsibilities are a community effort for the common good of everyone on campus so that the university can allow on-campus classes and living to be possible and safe.

“It is incumbent upon all students, faculty and staff to understand these policies, to follow them and to hold others accountable for following them as well,” she said.

With plans to keep in-person classes going until Thanksgiving break, it is uncertain how long these restrictions on social gatherings will stay in place after the fall semester ends.

“Enhanced health and safety measures will remain in place until further notice,” Paul said.

SIGNAGES

Continued from **PAGE 12**

Nichols said the sign is currently in production and could be installed within the next two weeks.

“We had quite a bit of money left over so, since that was so highly visible and it needed to be replaced anyway, we went ahead and did that,” Nichols said. “We still came in significantly under budget even with adding that extra work.”

The project began in April with a universitywide signage survey done by the Office of Administrative Services Communications and Marketing team, facilities management from all three campuses — Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee — as well as USF Health Facilities Management to record a photo, type, location and size of all exterior and interior signages around campus.

“I created a Qualtrics database and we used our phones to go all around campus and we actually took a picture, recorded a location and pulled measurements of every logo signage and piece of logo signage around the campus,” Nichols said.

Over a one-month period, the survey recorded over 500 signage items, including from

both exterior and interior spaces, across all three campuses. Each entry featured a photo, type, location and size of the logo, according to Nichols.

After reviewing the data collected, Nichols said the survey found approximately 350 signage items, ranging from vinyl decals to exterior building signage that were not consistent with USF’s current visual identity standards.

Phase II will replace exterior signs inside the campus, including wayfinding monuments on campus such as vehicular and pedestrian signage. The final phase will then update all signage inside buildings across campuses.

Nichols said phase II and III haven’t been planned as there’s no funding available yet.

Besides giving the campus entrance a new look, Nichols said consolidation was also a driving factor during the project. He said the signage needed to be updated to “reflect the new USF visual identity standards” as well as make the university signage “consistent.”

“Consolidation was part of what drove the signage change,” Nichols said. “We needed to make sure all the signage ... was consistent.”



Through a universitywide signage survey, about 350 signs were identified as being in need to be updated across campuses.

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