

COVID-19 Committee Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020

The COVID-19 Committee met Thursday, December 10 at 2:00 PM. The group agreed because of finals and numerous end of the year responsibilities this will be the last meeting for the 2020 year. The meetings will resume the second week of January, 2021.

Rhonda St. Columbia reviewed the COVID-19 Quarantine Protocols (posted below) and wanted to make sure that everyone understood these. She stated that if there were questions it was fine to contact her. St. Columbia also shared that there would be new signage when the campus reopened for students in the Spring semester. In addition, she wanted to make sure that all students understood the contact protocols. After a discussion it was determined that the best way to share that information with students, since there is no student orientation, is to have the flyers all over campus, at registration, at the screening stations and other places. It was decided that one side would list the college protocols for safety which include masks, screening, social distancing, hand sanitizing, workspace sanitizing. The other side will show the flow chart students are supposed to use for tracing. St Columbia will take care of this. She has also ordered new masks. There are plenty of lanyards. All of these aren't as attractive as the ones used at orientation but will work.

Von Daniels reported that the preregistration promotional for the weekly drawing are going well. The final drawing will be for a \$100 gift certificate per campus from the Bookstores and Stan Sullivan has been helpful in getting that arranged. Daniels said that he is making sure that all of this is covered on social media.

Kim Kirby reported that the Ridgerunner Recharge presentation given by Michelle Waites went well. The third session was on the importance of good nutrition during high stress times (and always). Future sessions planned will be on goal setting, time management, credit scores, and similar important life topics. Kirby believes this is the beginning of a long-term series related to social and emotional support. She hopes to poll the students to see if they have specific topics they would like to see included in the series.

Dr. King and Kim Rawls reported on the new EdPays program which provides a strong financial incentive for TEA recipients (current and past) to enroll in school and complete a program. Faculty, staff, and students have been notified of this opportunity and it is hoped that it will provide an incentive for some to return to College.

Debbie Hardy reported that on the Helena campus the Food Pantry will be distributing Christmas Food Boxes. It is much heavier than the usual food pantry grocery bags and will have hams and other kinds of holiday food. She shared that Kim Rawls and Gracie Jemerson had done a similar thing on the DeWitt campus for the Thanksgiving meal with great success. Kim Kirby indicated that had done a food bag give away in Stuttgart too. The students sign up for this in advance so that the Food Pantry knows how many boxes to prepare. Never more than now are food pantry services needed by our students.

Kim Kirby shared the Phase IV reopening discussion about opening the Fitness Centers. It was determined that with the spike in COVID cases and the inability to properly screen and clean the centers, it was best to leave the centers closed. Although the idea was to open for employees, King said the Arkansas Department of Health said this was not a good time to be doing that. The Committee

discussed an Arkansas Department of Health Letter sharing that there are safety problems with keeping spas, fitness centers, and gyms, open.

Registration was discussed. The Committee believed that the Catalog published times for registration should be observed, especially because of issues with social distancing. The Committee believes it is fine to have a short highly focused period for registering, it was hoped that to ensure social distancing and to reach students who were using the published calendar to register, that the registration process should continue from 8:00 AM-6:00 PM on January 7, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Quarantine Protocols



New Quarantine Protocol December 8, 2020

The CDC has released new guidelines for quarantine. To provide clarity for higher education institutions, ADHE, ADH, and UAMS have developed the following position:

- **Standard quarantine for 14 day release:** 14 day quarantine is the safest option and still recommended. UAMS must be able to confirm asymptomatic status to release.
- **Minimum requirements for 10 day release:** Individuals placed into quarantine as a result of a close contact may be released after a minimum of 10 days if they have been asymptomatic throughout quarantine. The individual must notify their campus POC to request early release. The POC will verify absence of symptoms with UAMS to grant official release.
- **Minimum requirements for 7 day release:** Individuals placed into quarantine as a result of a close contact may be released after a minimum of 7 days if they both: (1.) Have been asymptomatic throughout the quarantine period and (2.) Receive a negative Covid test* result taken no sooner than five days after last exposure. The individual must notify their campus POC to request early release and provide negative test results. The POC will verify absence of symptoms with UAMS to grant official release.
- **In case of early release:** Individuals must adhere strictly to other measures to reduce spread (masking, social distancing, hand hygiene, monitoring symptoms, reduce social activities, etc.) through day 14. If symptoms of COVID-19 develop after early release, the individual should immediately isolate and be tested for COVID-19 (even if they previously had a negative test during this quarantine period).