April 30, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As we finish Week 14, you have my deepest admiration for the work you have done to make spring semester successful. Please continue to check in with your students and with each other. Remind them, and yourselves, that we can do this and finish strong!

**COVID-19 Updates**
RIT remains in Yellow status. Cases on campus have plateaued and the campus positivity rate remains very low. Cases of COVID-19 in both Monroe County and the Finger Lakes Region have dropped a bit. According to the [COVID Act Now website](https://covidactnow.org/), over 1/3 of Monroe County residents are fully vaccinated and nearly half have received at least one dose. This is all positive news. As we get closer to what I hope will be the end of this pandemic, it is still critical we remain vigilant and follow the three W’s: wear a mask, wash hands, and watch distance. You can stay informed by visiting [NYS Latest News](https://www.nyslatestnews.com).

**Vaccinations**
Vaccination continues to be our best defense against COVID-19. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated – there are plenty of opportunities in our community and many of them no longer require appointments. Information about getting a vaccine can be found [here](https://www.health.ny.gov). If you have been vaccinated, consider downloading the [NYS Excelsior Pass](https://www.excelius.org). The pass provides a quick and easy way to provide evidence of vaccination when required. RIT has established a pathway using Oracle for employees to voluntarily report their vaccination status. This information will be used in the aggregate to get a sense of our community’s overall vaccination rate. For more information, please click [here](https://www.excelius.org).

**ACADEMIC UPDATES**

**Reminder – Monday, May 3 is a Thursday**
Adding recharge days to the spring 2021 academic calendar triggered one other modification to ensure we had an equal number of class days across the week: Monday, May 3 should be treated as a Thursday. All classes meeting on Monday, May 3, will follow a Thursday schedule.

**Reading Day**
Reading Day is Thursday, May 6. Reading Day is intended to allow students time to prepare for final exams. There should be no required academic activities on this day; however, faculty should be available to meet with students as requested.

**Fall Registration Update and Undergraduate Outreach**
The first two weeks of fall enrollment have been very strong with undergraduate and graduate enrollment ahead of last year at the same relative point. Outreach has started for main campus undergraduates who have not yet registered for fall semester. All undergraduate students who had not registered by Monday, April 19, received a reminder message from the University
Advising Office. This reminder was in advance of advisors’ outreach to non-registered students that began on Monday, April 26, and will continue through add/drop of fall semester. The goal of this process, which began in 2014, is to provide assistance to students who are not registered for the succeeding semester with the goal of supporting students to stay on track for graduation.

**PROVOST’S OFFICE HOURS**

Provost’s Office (Half) Hours are held weekly, on alternating Mondays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Each office (half) hour includes an update on the university’s response to COVID-19, important news relevant to Academic Affairs, and time for questions. Notes and presentations are posted on the [Office of the Provost website](http://www.rit.edu/officeoftheprovost) following each session. All faculty and staff in Academic Affairs are welcome. You may [register here](http://www.rit.edu/officeoftheprovost). If you have suggestions for guest speakers who can address topics of interest in more detail, please send them to provost@rit.edu.

Provost’s Office Hours will continue through Monday, May 10. The schedule of summer meetings will be shared soon.

**FINALLY...**

We are nearing the end of a spring semester like no other. It has been long and exhausting, but we should all be very proud of the cumulative impact from each individual action: a successful spring semester and academic year. We kept COVID-19 under control and delivered a full academic program to our students. Faculty, staff and especially our students have been phenomenal in their efforts to keep the community safe and healthy. I look forward to a more normal fall semester and to showing our first and second year students what life at RIT is really like!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to send an email to provost@rit.edu. My very best to all of you as we finish up the semester.

Sincerely,

Ellen Granberg, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs