

Fourth-year Students Breakout Session

1:00-2:00 pm, June 23

Discussion moderators: Mark Peltz, Dean of Careers, Life, and Service, and Jaci Thiede, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

S&B Reporters: Seth Taylor

- The administration is currently working on “seeded schedules” for the fall terms.
 - ◆ Class scheduling is still in progress, but “maybe upwards of 90%” of course registrations will be able to be accommodated in the new schedule, according to Peltz.
 - The schedule of courses will hopefully be released in mid-july.
- The financial aid office is intending to have new financial aid offers out by July 3rd and billing statements by July 10th.
- Students may petition to enroll in fewer than 6-10 credits if they are on track to graduate, especially to accommodate for planning for post-graduation for fourth-years
- Mark Peltz said he’s “hopeful” seniors will be able to walk at graduation, though there are many factors that are simply not known.
 - ◆ The 2020-21 Commencement is scheduled for May 28 - a Friday (commencement is usually scheduled on a Monday).
- Jaci Thiede emphasized that the College administration is paying attention to what peer institutions are doing, but Grinnell’s plan will be tailored to Grinnell’s specific circumstances.
- One student asked if a student would be able to graduate between terms if they had fulfilled their graduation requirements (Peltz and Thiede said they weren’t sure).
- Thiede said the College’s hope is that every student is invited to campus for at least one term - more if possible. That includes domestic and international students.
- Peltz and Thiede deferred all questions about off-campus housing to the off-campus session, held on Wednesday.
 - ◆ The clarified that off-campus students will have access to academic buildings if they have an in person class in an academic building.
- Thiede said that “in a general sense” fourth-years would be prioritized in the spring.

- ◆ Peltz also said that the faculty and staff are committed to allowing fourth-years to fulfill their graduation requirements
- Thiede said she “imagines” that students will be able to get their things from storage on-campus even if they’re living off-campus.
- There will be “health and safety expectations ... we’re going to ask people to abide by,” said Peltz in regards to a question on the College’s stance on interaction between students living on- and off-campus.
- During breaks between F1 and F2 and S1 and S2 students who are invited to campus for both terms will not be allowed to leave.
- Questions still remain about accelerated graduation.
- Peltz said he believes there will be “limited” classes that will span two terms.
 - ◆ Those classes would span F1 and F2 OR S1 and S2.
 - ◆ However, those courses will require a strong pedagogical rationale for the College to approve them.
- Off-campus employment decisions have not yet been made.
 - ◆ If off-campus employment is not possible - due to college policy or local circumstances - Peltz encouraged students to reach out to financial aid.
- “You will have agency to the extent to which you engage with others,” said Peltz to a question about whether students can choose not to engage with “scurries or d-hall or other social places.”
- “Every time we make one decision, it generates about 20 more that need to be made.”
- The college will provide PPE for students
- Access to campus resources - such as the reading lab, SHAW, etc. - is being worked out now.
 - ◆ Peltz said those resources will be available to students, but in what way is not yet decided.
 - ◆ Those offices have their own health considerations to consider, and they will also be following a low-density staffing model.
- Thiede said that students should assume there will be no external visitors allowed on campus (though there may be rare exceptions).
- Peltz encouraged students looking for on-campus employment to keep an eye on Handshake.