

# Off-Campus Students Breakout Session

## (3:00-4:00 pm, June 24)

**Discussion moderators:** Ben Newhouse, Dean of Students, and Sarah Moschenross, Vice President of Student Affairs

**S&B Reporters:** Zoe Fruchter, Seth Taylor and Wini Austin

All plans will evolve and everything is subject to change.

### Influence of Iowa policies/demographics

- “Iowa has not been a leader in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Moschenross. The College is getting guidance from the CDC, the American College Association and other states.
- GRMC is ill-equipped to handle Poweshiek County’s COVID-19 patients. There are 3 rooms for the entire county equipped to handle these patients.

### Social life

- Housemates are considered your “scurry” group.
  - ◆ This means that you should social distance from everyone who does not live in your house.
  - ◆ You can still interact with others if you take precautions.
- If you are in a small house - 1 or 2 people - Moschenross said it’s reasonable to combine with other small houses to create a scurry.
- Approved off-campus students will not be included in “on-campus scurreries,” so as to enable effective isolation in the event of exposure. Minimize the spread, mitigate the risk.
  - ◆ “We can grow the on-campus population if these things work.”
- You can hang out with on-campus students if social distance is maintained.
- The College asks that off-campus students not leave Grinnell, but there will be no formal monitoring. They request that you isolate when you get back.

### Campus Access

- “Working to expand testing protocol to include approved off campus students” if you are approved to come to campus for your in person class (ex. Studio art or lab). Otherwise you would not have access.
  - ◆ Intend to expand testing capacity to include some off-campus students
  - ◆ If coming on campus for any reason, there is guaranteed testing
- “We definitely want you all here. ... Our goal is to get everybody back here,” said Moschenross.

- Food pantry and lending library - “key resources” - might have limited access (contact Deanna Shorb for more information)
- Willing to get “creative” about access to resources like printing
  - ◆ “We don’t want to keep you from academic resources.”
- If you have not been approved to live off campus you cannot use on-campus resources for any reason
- Access to campus resources is contingent on enrollment, according to Newhouse
- If you were previously approved to live off-campus but would like to live on campus due to immunocompromisation then you should petition through disability resources.
  - ◆ Petition request for on-campus housing from the Dean’s office in the next two weeks.
- Work to decide access to the athletics center is ongoing, but Moschenross noted that the College “understands” the importance of the center for mental and physical wellness.
- Off-campus students will not have access to the D-Hall at this time
  - ◆ The D-Hall is currently a “bottleneck” for College planning
- Activity fee only charged to those with access to campus (living on campus or approved to take classes on campus)
- The College is committed to figuring out access to community spaces for students of color, SRC resources, SHIC resources - talking about it in student advisory groups.
- Office access for both on- and off-campus students will be severely limited.
  - ◆ Only about 30% of College staff will be working in-person
  - ◆ Appointments and meetings will be primarily online.
- If you live off-campus you will not be able to access laundries in residence halls or anywhere on campus.

### Healthcare

- Students will have access to SHAW through a “telehealth” system for domestic students. This includes counseling.
  - ◆ International students already enrolled in college insurance have access to these telehealth services.
- If a student becomes sick off-campus, the College will still consider them “a priority.”
  - ◆ They will “guide and advise” students as to what to do
  - ◆ They will provide quarantine space in Rose and Rathje if you test positive or upon request. This extends to those in your off-campus scurry
    - This would include a meal plan for the time you are quarantined
- The College will provide PPE for all off-campus students.
  - ◆ Probably face shields, due to recent efficacy studies. Face masks may be included.

### Testing

- Testing will depend on expansion of capacity, which is now only confirmed for on-campus students, but Moschenross is “hopeful” that testing capacity will expand.



- ◆ The 500 student benchmark does not include off-campus students, even those approved to study on-campus.
- There will be a designated testing date for off-campus students who are taking on-campus classes - no need to move into a hotel or a transitional space.
- Des Moines and Iowa City will have accessible testing centers if off-campus students don't have access to College tests.
  - ◆ In Poweshiek County, you can only get tested if you are exhibiting symptoms.
  - ◆ Moschenross reiterated that she thinks the College will have tests for off-campus students, but it is not confirmed yet.
- Moschenross said she thinks that the College testing center will be located in the natatorium lobby.
- Testing will happen (probably) every 4-7 days. Students with any access to campus will be assigned a testing time.
- "We'll have the most aggressive testing protocol hopefully in the country," according to Moschenross.
  - ◆ The College is currently working with an epidemiologist to determine the periodicity of testing.

#### **Off Campus Approval Process**

- No new off-campus approvals will be given in order to promote "low-density" living
- The College strongly discourages unapproved students to live off-campus
  - ◆ However, "We can't control the choices you make," said Newhouse
- Aid is done differently for those who have been approved vs not approved to live off-campus in terms of taking into account rent, food, etc. Reach out to Financial Aid for more information.

