

Comments from 9/22 Membership Meeting

12:25:23 From Joel Phillips To Arthur Taylor(Privately) :

In our group we discussed concerns of video not being able to be shared in Illumira; many faculty not yet in receipt of disability accommodation requests; student reluctance for sharing audio/video; as well as strategies for using Zoom, etc.

12:42:49 From Mayank Jaiswal :

Internet connection issues - we have to deal with it
Some students use chromebooks but they do not work so well. Laptops are good for some classes, hence maybe providing loaners to students would be great.
More space on Apporto, could not run classes such as GIS class
Size of classes on zoom - can we have smaller classes for example it is tough for conversation classes to have big size
Information about vaccine
What is the school's plan for Spring, 2021. When will we know it?

12:44:56 From Jonathan Karp To Arthur Taylor(Privately) :

Related to video question - can students demand that we record Zoom lectures?

No.

12:45:24 From Andrea Drewes : Concerns Discussed in Breakout Rooms:

1. A lack of recognition of the immense lift and hard work that faculty, TLC and OIT staff have done over the summer - and continue to do so this semester
2. Concerns of changing CDC guidelines re: distance/spacing where 6 feet is not enough for safety
3. Oddly, COVID has increased enrollment in some areas due to increased availability

Which areas?

4. Additional training needed for in-classroom tech resources

5. Need for additional training on newly installed tech resources in on campus classrooms to assist with remote teaching and ongoing tech assistance for remote instruction on day to day basis

12:45:36 From Andrea Drewes :

6. Difficulties encountered, which are especially poignant for junior faculty, when conducting peer teaching evaluation observations and also will need to discuss how student course evaluations may be negatively impacted due to the ever changing COVID regulations

Perhaps the new faculty forum can address these issues?

Note that course evaluations are an optional component of the candidate's promotion and tenure dossier at Rider.

12:45:54 From Andrea Drewes : That was Breakout Room 2

12:46:01 From Barbara Franz :

Students say when internet connection is bad it can be improved if video is off!

That is certainly true. Video uses quite a bit of network bandwidth. Keep in mind that many students are at home with siblings who are also taking classes remotely who are also consuming bandwidth.

12:47:27 From Sarah Trocchio : Yes, there are equity issues involved.

12:47:57 From Heather Dalal : breakout room 5 said

things were mostly going better than expected. Better attendance. Participation is an issue, but faculty are including polls, etc and/or posting participation grades so students are aware. One member struggled with online attendees for in person classes, especially those that need the sign language interpreter (sic).

12:48:08 From Roberta Clipper : From breakout room #!:

what is the status of COVID testing on campus? The app does not account for asymptomatic cases.

Since this meeting, administration has begun updating their campus COVID stats and has committed to keeping that information updated. It looks like they are updating stats weekly on the ['Resolved and Ready' dashboard](#).

12:48:32 From Heather Dalal : I'd like to repeat a question above: I'm confused about the last bit of that report.

Why should we expect charges of harassment? Are we talking about the political situation?

12:49:35 From aaup aaup : From Breakout Room 2

12:50:02 From aaup aaup : Comments from Breakout Room 2, AAUP meeting, Sept. 22, 2020

1. A lack of recognition of the immense lift and hard work that faculty, TLC and OIT staff have done over the summer - and continue to do so this semester
2. Concerns of changing CDC guidelines re: distance/spacing where 6 feet is not enough for safety

Yes, studies indicate the infectious particles can linger in the air for up to 3 hours and travel a distance of 26 feet. While CDC notes that studies have reported this expanded particulate spread, their guidelines are still 6 feet of separation. Rider is adhering to NJ state guidelines for higher education, and the NJ state guidelines adhere to CDC guidance.

3. Oddly, COVID has increased enrollment in some areas due to increased availability
4. Additional training needed for in-classroom tech resources
5. Thanks to faculty, TLC, OIT, and AAUP. Administration should express appreciation.

12:52:10 From Barbara Franz : We may see a change in student interest based on the fact that we are very demographically dense and students might want to stay close to home in post-pandemic NJ

Good point. Perhaps this explains the surprisingly robust enrollment numbers.

Predictions of demographic changes are just ... predictions. There is no doubt a probability of error which has not been reported in any of the mass media reports.

A Hechinger Report article [here](#) reports on the findings of Nathan Grawe, with a more detailed interview with Grawe [here](#) and an AACU article from Grawe [here](#).

What is notable about these predictions relative to Rider are 1) major metropolitan areas often defy higher education demographic trends (we draw from the Philadelphia - NY city metropolitan area), and 2) more selective institutions are not as impacted by these trends. Therefore, a strategy which Rider has been pursuing of being less selective (and not investing in faculty and quality programs) seems like the wrong approach to dealing with this expected trend.