

From: Rogers, Patricia L

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:20 PM

To: LSC-Campus-Employees <LSC-Campus-Employees@lsc.edu>; LSC-Campus-Students <LSC-Campus-Students@lsc.edu>; LSC-Student Senate <senate@lsc.edu>

Subject: Campus Update June 18

Dear LSC Community:

I have two messages for our campus today. One is a bit of a heads up on our fall semester plans for carefully, mindfully, and safely opening up the main campus and our three locations. The other is in honor of Juneteenth.

First, as you know, the Minnesota State system and all of its colleges and universities are working to provide limited face-to-face options for our students beginning in fall. As of today, we know we are able to offer primarily online classes with face-to-face elements, provided we follow social distancing, and other best practices for safety. We are currently working to arrange rooms and schedules to accommodate physical distancing in rooms, and to limit the number of students to 25 per room. This class size limit could change—up or down—in the next few days.

As you can imagine, this is a massive scheduling and coordinating project, and I am so proud and appreciative of everyone...from staff to faculty to administrators and students who are doing this work to ensure a very successful fall! Thank you so very much.

We also have people working very hard to bring new students to campus to address our enrollment challenges, and those efforts are paying off! Our applications are up beyond the numbers we experienced in the last two years for this time of year! **Let me be very clear: We must all work to ensure that these prospective students choose LSC and those who do, find that we are THE most responsive, welcoming, and inclusive college that I know we can be.**

All of this work requires more of us to be on campus, for some staff to return to campus to support and carry out these efforts, and for faculty to continue to plan for limited face-to-face teaching environments. Please keep in mind: all of these plans could change on any given day, as we gain more direction from MMB, Minnesota State, and the health department.

Yet we go forward with our best energy and drive **because this work requires all of us to continue to pay attention to our core mission: to serve students and to focus on their needs.** Therefore, we must refine our current campus re-opening plans to include clarity on how these plans will unfold. Stated simply: Some areas may not change much for now, while others will need to be fully or nearly fully staffed. Supervisors are working on staffing needs for their areas and will communicate those plans to the VP in charge of the area. With respect to our consulting/shared governance processes, we will have a more formal meeting early next week to discuss these clarifications. As I said on May 1: "I know you are tired of this situation and very much want to 'make it all go away.' You want clarity and date-certain plans. We all do!"

So, by moving slowly and with safety in mind, we will gain more clarity and as much certainty as we can in these changing times. As always, we will seek feedback from constituency leadership and all of you (faculty, staff, students) as our plans must be fluid and responsive to the changing conditions and directions from our system office. Please continue to send your comments to info@lsc.edu.

My second message is about tomorrow's celebration of Juneteeth. This date is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the official end of slavery in the United States. If you are unfamiliar with this celebration, I invite you to attend one of the many events happening tomorrow, both locally and online (see Executive Diversity Officer Sarah Lyons' email from yesterday), or take a look at this website for more information: <https://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm> .

I have much to say about our redoubled efforts focused on Equity 2020. You will hear more in the coming months about the work we must do to ensure that our college and community are welcoming, equitable, and inclusive. Much of that work is embedded in our strategic planning. More on that as we swing into fall semester.

For now, I'll leave you with some lyrics that speak to the events of the last few weeks. This song is written by Ferron Foisy, an artist, poet, and singer/songwriter.

It Won't take Long

...At noon on one day coming
Human strength will fill the streets
Of every city on our planet
Hear the sound of angry feet
With business freezed up in the harbor
The kings will pull upon their hair
And the banks will shudder to a halt
And the artists will be there

'Cause it won't take long...

Division between the peoples
Will disappear that honored day
And though oceans lie between us
Lifted candles light the way
Half will join their hands by moonlight
The rest under a rising sun
As underneath the sun and moon
A ritual'd wailing has begun

And it won't take long...

Source: [LyricFind](#) Songwriters: Ferron Foisy It Won't Take Long lyrics © BMG Rights Management

She wrote and sang this song decades ago, and it still speaks to our current reality. If interested, I suggest you view the YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVXq76emXDk> of Ferron reciting her song as poetry. Very powerful.

Be well. Be safe.

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