

Dec. 7, 2020

Dear Students,

As we near the end of the semester, I write to thank you for your patience and perseverance this fall, and to congratulate you on a strong finish. I also want to wish you a restful, safe and happy holiday season. You deserve the good, long winter break ahead!

Protocols for Returning to Campus in Spring 2021

By now, you have received Vice Chancellor Haynie's [message of Dec. 3, 2020](#). Please read it in its entirety, as soon as possible, so you may comply with the University's expectations for vaccinations and return-to-campus protocols.

During the winter break, check your emails frequently, to make sure that you are up to speed on coronavirus-related developments and protocols related to resuming your studies in the spring semester.

Given the evolution of the pandemic, we will have news to share, and COVID-19 testing requirements will be published. I also encourage you to keep track of New York State's quarantine requirements, which could well impact your plans to return to campus.

Finally, please also visit [the University's coronavirus information site](#), and for College of Law-specific updates, our [Law Preparedness](#) page on the **Path to Spring 2021**.

Proposed Changes to Spring 2021 Calendar

On a separate but related note, I am in receipt of the attached memo from the SBA to me and the "SUCOL Administration."

As I conveyed to SBA leaders at a recent meeting with them, it is not possible to deviate from our adjusted spring academic calendar. While I appreciate the SBA leadership's thoughts on how they and others believe it could be done, we cannot accommodate the request for modifications as a number of operational challenges make it impossible to do so.

I do encourage you to make strategic use of the additional week in the break between the fall and spring semesters, and remember that all of us—students, staff and faculty—bear the burden of not having a spring break week next semester.

I've taken time this semester to revisit and reflect on accounts of some of the dark times our country has endured over the last century or so—in particular two world wars that brought rationing, military drafts and enormous loss of life; and the Spanish flu pandemic, which resulted in 675,000 deaths in the US alone.

By their very nature, highly traumatic events require all of us to find within ourselves new

reserves of strength, determination, flexibility, and resilience. I deeply appreciate the Herculean efforts of our faculty and staff, both at the College of Law and University-wide, that have made it possible for us to continue our educational mission this year.

I know that some of the solutions we've employed are painful; but they are aimed at keeping all of you on track to graduate on time and in compliance with ABA standards, while also safeguarding your health.

One final reminder: As I've shared with SBA leadership, our faculty, staff and I rely upon our Director of Student Affairs **Sarah Collins**, working with the SBA, to identify student concerns and explore solutions for consideration.

Please regard her as your point person for addressing your questions and concerns. By observing the College of Law's administrative protocols, you help us address your important issues in a timely fashion.

Again, I wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Best regards,

Craig M. Boise

Dean and Professor of Law