

# ***TOWN HALL: FALL 2021 PLANNING***

**Jeff Malanson**

*Director of Strategic Planning and COVID-19 Point of Contact*

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

**FORT WAYNE**

**April 16, 2021**

# Agenda

- Purpose of Town Hall
- Planning Background
- Preliminary Guidelines and Recommendations
- Q&A

*Please note: This session is being recorded and will be posted on the PFW Prepared website.*



# Purpose of Town Hall

- Planning work is still ongoing, but we know that there are a lot of questions about what the summer and fall will look like
- Our goals are to:
  - Share preliminary guidelines, recommendations, and thinking for feedback and discussion
  - Understand the questions and concerns of our faculty and staff
  - Identify planning questions that we may have overlooked



# Planning Background

- Two planning groups:
  - Expanded PFW Prepared/PFW Ready Committee focused on Fall operations, including summer transition planning
  - Senate Task Force focused on academics and student support
- Core Planning Principles
  - Live our core value to put Students First
  - Create a better normal for Purdue Fort Wayne
  - Embrace a wellness mindset
  - Adhering to these principles will ensure that we advance the university's mission to "educate and engage our students and communities with purpose by cultivating learning, discovery, and innovation in an inclusive environment."



# PFW Prepared / PFW Ready Committee

- Stacy Betz, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Benjamin Grubisich, Aladdin Food Service
- Melissa Gruys, Doermer School of Business
- Loaine Hagerty, Development
- MarTeze Hammonds, Chief Diversity Officer
- Kelley Hartley Hutton, Athletics
- Doug Hess, APSAC
- Jordyn Hogan, Student Housing
- David Johnson, Communications and Marketing
- Greg Justice, Facilities Management, co-chair
- Christine Kuznar, Athletics
- Jerry Lewis, Communications and Marketing
- Jeff Malanson, COVID-19 Point of Contact, co-chair
- Julie Miller, CSSAC
- Isabel Nunez, School of Education
- Ann Obergfell, IU Fort Wayne
- John O'Connell, College of Visual and Performing Arts
- Daniel Palermo, ITS
- Vic Spencer, LGBTQ Resource Center
- Cynthia Springer, Human Resources, co-chair
- Jamie Toole, Senate
- Kim Wagner, Chief of Staff
- Derrik West, Student Government Association
- Nash Younis, Faculty Speaker
- Lisa Zerkle, Crisis Management

# Senate Task Force

- Alex Backer, Student Government Association
- Farah Combs, College of Liberal Arts
- Rama Cousik, School of Education
- Adam Dircksen, CELT
- Barry Dupen, College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science
- Steven Hanke, Doermer School of Business
- Jeff Malanson, COVID-19 Point of Contact, chair
- Mark Masters, College of Science
- Ann Obergfell, IU Fort Wayne
- Kari Smith, Registrar
- David Steffens, College of Visual and Performing Arts

# Baseline Planning Scenario

- Every instructor, student, and staff member can be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by August
- Instructors who traditionally teach in-person courses will be back in the classroom
- Students enrolled in in-person courses will be back in the classroom
- Employees who are working remotely or on hybrid schedules due to the COVID-19 pandemic will return to being 100% on campus
- Re-densification will occur in classrooms, workspaces, and event spaces across campus

*Note: All planning and recommendations are subject to change based on virus prevalence and vaccine availability throughout summer 2021.*

# Surveys on Student Experiences and Expectations

- Critically important that we be intentional about understanding and either meeting or adjusting student expectations for what the Fall semester will/should look like
- Four distinct groups of students:
  - Graduate students
  - Returning undergraduates who started at PFW prior to the pandemic
  - Returning undergraduates who started at PFW during the 2020-21 academic year
  - New undergraduates starting at PFW during the 2021-22 academic year
- Surveys:
  - Student survey on pandemic experiences and Fall 2021 expectations
    - 335 responses
  - Faculty survey on student pandemic experiences and Fall 2021 expectations
    - 80 responses



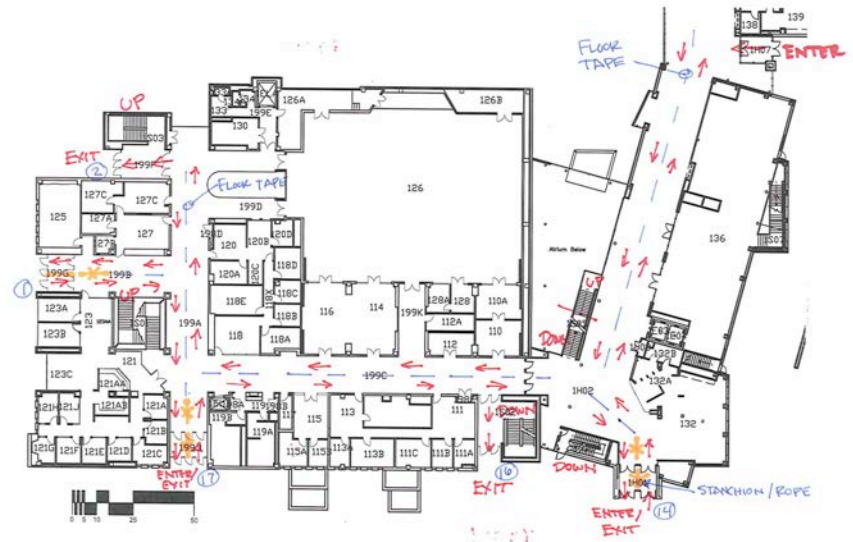
# Preliminary Recommendations

- For the sake of time, will share major categories of recommendations and provide detail on 3 high-priority items from each planning group
- Can go into additional detail during the Q&A



# Preliminary Recommendations: Operations

- Return-to-Campus Planning
- Vaccine Promotion
- Face Masks
- Meetings
- Events
- Health, Safety, and Wellness Protocols
- Building Configurations
- Travel Restrictions
- Other Campus Operations
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
- Communications



# Operations: Return-to-Campus Planning

- All employees working remotely or on hybrid schedules due to the COVID-19 pandemic will return to 100% on-campus work by Monday, August 9, 2021
  - Generally speaking, only employees who have gone through the ADA process with Human Resources will be granted accommodations to continue working remotely on an ongoing basis after August 9
- As part of working together to build our better normal for Purdue Fort Wayne, we hope to be in a position this Fall to consider and evaluate remote work options and policies
  - We must be intentional about the feasibility and benefits of remote work
  - We must be attentive to student needs, institutional equity, and employee engagement in the life of a brick-and-mortar campus
- Unit-level return-to-campus plans will be submitted to senior leaders by June 1

# Operations: Face Masks

- The university will maintain its current face mask policy until further notice
  - All current health and safety protocols will remain in effect throughout the Spring 2021 semester
  - Pending revised guidance from the CDC or Indiana State Department of Health, all current health and safety protocols will remain in effect in all face-to-face/hybrid Summer 2021 courses
- A decision to modify the face mask policy will be driven by recommendations from the CDC and other public health agencies
  - Even once our policy is rolled back, individual students, staff, and faculty may choose to wear a face mask on campus



# Operations: Meetings

- In-person meetings can resume this summer as long as they follow university health and safety protocols
- Meeting organizers should be attentive to:
  - Meeting venues
  - Meeting size
  - Meeting modality (especially if there are attendees who will be attending virtually)



# Preliminary Recommendations: Academics and Student Support

- Communication
- Course Modality: Face-to-Face, Hybrid, Synchronous Online, and Asynchronous Online
- Livestreaming and Recording of Classes
- Accommodations for Students Who Cannot Attend In-Person Classes for a Limited Period of Time
- Support for First-Year Students
- Office Hours, One-on-One Meetings, and Group Work
- Student-Facing Units and Personnel
- Community Engagement
- Faculty and Staff Travel/Professional Development
- Instructor, Staff, and Student Wellbeing and Mental Health



# Academics: Communication

- Many/most faculty have been attentive to clear and frequent communication via multiple channels since March 2020
  - Communication is both information sharing and relationship building
- Students report taking advantage of and valuing the extra communication, outreach, and support from faculty
  - Task force survey question on tips for new students: students see faculty as a critical resource for their success and wellbeing
- Conversely, the task force survey and last fall's SGA survey reveal a great deal of student dissatisfaction with instructors who do not communicate
  - Example: asynchronous online courses where students never meet, interact with, or even see their instructors

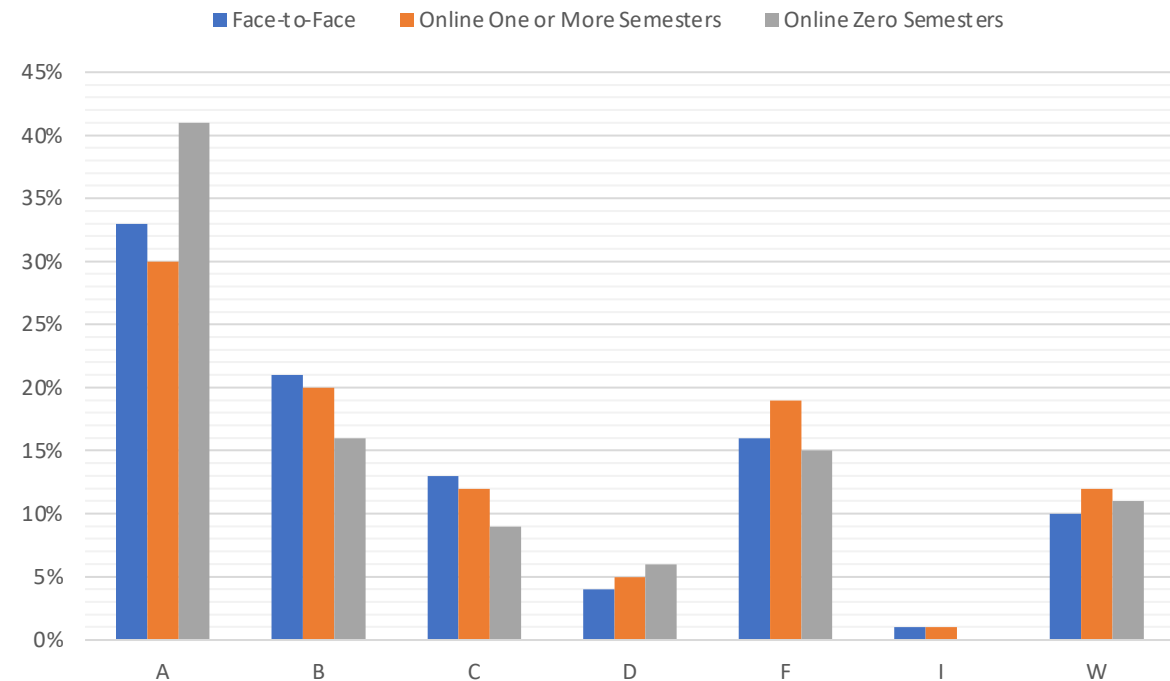
# Academics: Livestreaming and Recording of Classes

- Zoom, Webex, Kaltura, etc. widely used this year in face-to-face and hybrid courses (thanks to significant efforts of ITS)
- Students highly value the attendance flexibility that livestreaming provides and hope to see it continue next year
- Faculty and SOTL report significant drawbacks:
  - Reduced in-person attendance
  - Reduced engagement in the course, which can negatively impact learning and performance
- Task force does not recommend livestreaming or recording for general student use
  - It remains a critical resource for students who cannot be in person for limited periods of time due to illness or emergencies, but passively watching videos of in-person classes cannot be a long-term substitute for face-to-face instruction and engagement



# Academics: Support for First-Year Students

- Current high school seniors have been learning in varied modalities (fully online, hybrid, and/or socially distanced face-to-face) since March 2020
  - Experts believe current seniors have experienced significant learning loss
  - In some cases, high school grades and performance on placement tests can help us to understand (un)preparedness, but grades are not a perfect indicator
- Strategies:
  - Intentional communication before and throughout the semester
  - Modifications to course content / pacing
  - Help students (and their advisors) meaningfully understand course progress and performance



Fall 2020 grade distributions in 100-level courses, by modality and prior online teaching experience

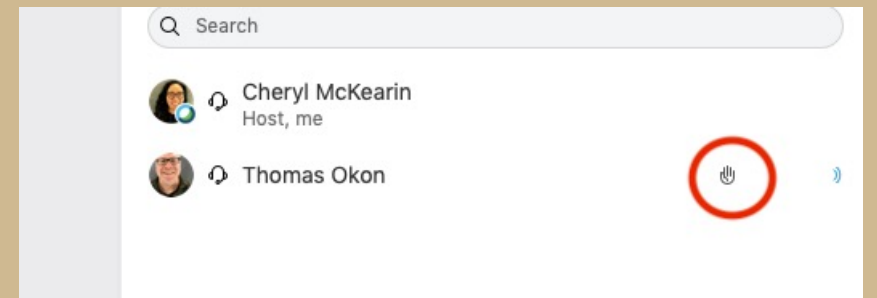
# Next Steps

- Bring feedback back to planning groups for consideration
- Finalize recommendations by the first week of May for review by the Chancellor and Cabinet before distribution to faculty and staff
- Continue to monitor COVID-19 conditions, including virus prevalence, vaccine uptake, and CDC and Indiana State Department of Health guidance
  - If necessary, issue revised recommendations by early August

# *QUESTIONS*

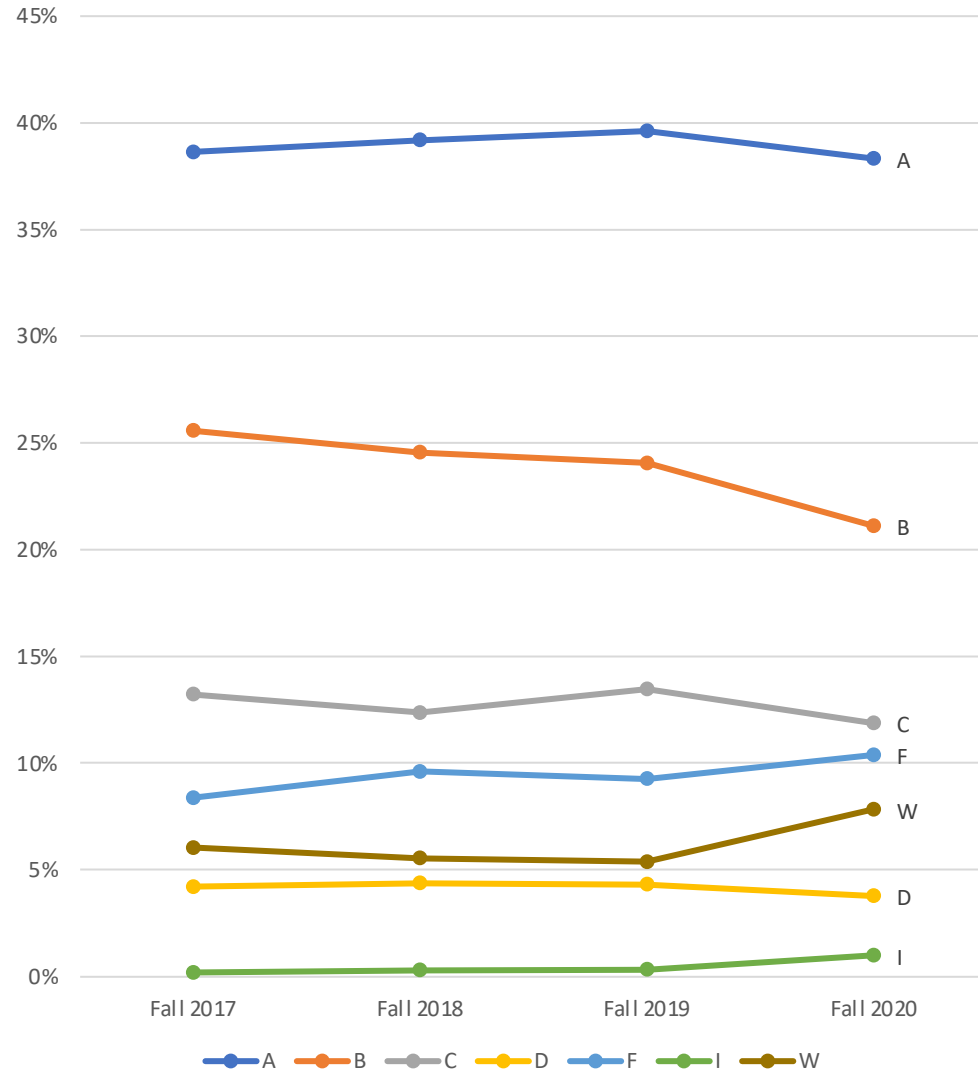
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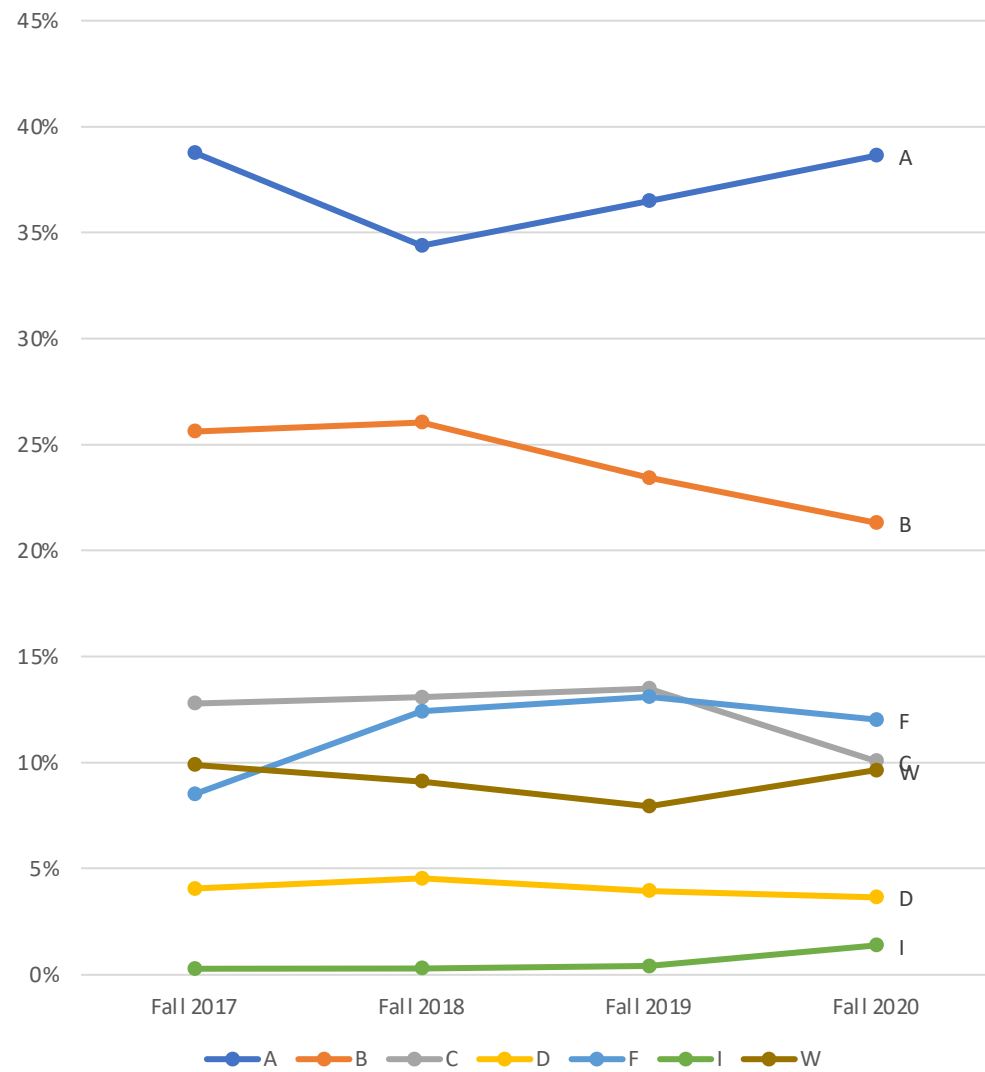


# Grade Distributions, Fall 2017 – Fall 2020

Undergraduate Face-to-Face Grade Distribution



Undergraduate Online Grade Distribution



# Fall 2020 grade distributions by course level, modality, and prior online teaching experience

