As we all look forward to welcoming our incoming first-year students in Fall 2021, I know that our faculty are excited to offer them a college experience that will engage and excite them. The majority of our courses will be offered face-to-face, and I am sure many of you are thinking ahead to what that will be like. The Fall 21 Planning Team is crafting recommendations for the Chancellor to consider for accommodating short term delivery mode changes at the course level when required by public health guidelines. The university is also working hard on the upgrading of classroom technology to support your instructional efforts to serve students in isolation or quarantine, and increasing the supply of devices that students can check out to support their ability to work virtually when needed. Given the uncertainty we have all faced in the last year, we hope these contingency plans and infrastructure improvements will assist you in maintaining continuity of instruction.

As we prepare for first-year students to register for courses through PIER beginning on May 14, I am writing to ask that all units and instructors review the delivery mode as shown in Banner for courses they are teaching in Fall 2021. Classroom assignments can also be found in Banner, and information about those spaces can be found at https://www.ecu.edu/buildings. Instructors and their department chairs may consider changing delivery mode as long as program needs can be met. Any changes in delivery mode should be carried out in Banner or with Registrar’s Office assistance before Wednesday, May 12. The Fall 2021 schedule as published in Banner cannot be changed after May 14 without dean/division approval, as it is very important for our incoming freshmen to enroll in courses that do not change in delivery mode after they register.

Our public health outlook remains hopeful, and ECU will continue to monitor virus caseload and transmission to inform any institution-wide decisions on our operations, with the shared goal of ensuring our campus family stays safe. I want to encourage you to maintain the three W’s and get your COVID-19 vaccination if you are able! Stay healthy and vigilant.