June 11, 2021

Faculty, Staff and Students,

As we approach the midpoint of June, I would like to share a brief update on the developments within Operation Resurgent Campus.

The College’s guidance will be released in the coming days, as our Operational Planning Team reviewed a near-final draft this morning. Upon completion, the full guidance will be emailed within our community and posted to our ORC webpage for public viewing.

Earlier this week, the CDC and U.S. Department of Education issued complimentary guidance that the team quickly addressed and incorporated key points into our forthcoming guidance. In short, each organization highlights the importance that the vaccine will play on college campuses, and when unvaccinated individuals are present, mitigation protocols consistent with 2020-21 are expected to be in place for those individuals. Thankfully, the College’s decision in May requiring immunization from faculty, staff and students, allow us to continue on our path forward to provide the full experience for our students in the 2021-22 academic year. These recent announcements reinforce the College’s decision for our entire community to vaccinate prior to August 1.

As a reminder, students should upload their Health History and Immunization form to eTrieve prior to August 1. Employees should email their vaccination record card to vaccine@william.jewell.edu. Collectively, this information will be used to determine the amount of vaccine necessary for the College to obtain in August to administer on campus as well as determine when we may transition levels within the ORC framework. Details and logistics of upcoming vaccination activity on campus is still to be determined. In early data collections, the employee vaccination rate was 84%, with an additional 7% intending to vaccinate, and the student vaccination rate from records currently received is 84%. Approximately 19% of the enrolled student body has reported. Both early indicators suggest the College is on its way to micro-herd immunity and thus few on-campus required protocols and restrictions in the fall. It will be up to every individual to ensure we remain on this trajectory.

The College has signed up for The White House COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge. This challenge has three commitments: engage every student, faculty and staff member; organize our community; and deliver vaccine for all. Steps already established within the Operation Resurgent Campus guide live up to that challenge.

While the fall semester remains 11 weeks away, we are excited to have you all on The Hill and ready for a vibrant year.

More to come soon.

Daniel

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