Dear faculty members of Saint Louis University,

As part of our planning efforts to schedule courses for the fall 2020 semester, we are asking faculty members for feedback on their ability or availability to teach this fall to determine the balance of on-line vs on-ground courses that will be offered to students. Assuming that conditions of the pandemic continue to improve, and public health guidance supports a return to campus, we recognize that many of our students will prefer the educational experience of face-to-face classes (we recognize too that many courses may be delivered using a hybrid model to accommodate the latest public health guidelines). We also recognize that faculty members who have preexisting health conditions or who may be part of a vulnerable demographic may need to request accommodations and may prefer to continue teaching online for the fall semester.

Faculty who choose to teach a course online are expected to use the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) for their courses, and engage with the Reinert Center to optimize their courses for the best possible online learning experience for our students. Early adopters of the Canvas learning management system (SPS, SOM, and select courses) will use this new LMS.

Faculty who are assigned to teach face-to-face are expected to ensure their courses can be moved online quickly, if the public health situation deteriorates during the Fall semester. They are also expected to ensure their courses can be taught in a hybrid manner such that most of the class is face-to-face but a few students may simultaneously be taking the class online due to preexisting health conditions or travel restrictions. The Provost’s email dated May 13, 2020 references requirements for these courses.

We are asking you to provide feedback about your personal preferences for teaching this Fall. We recognize this may be difficult given the changing public health landscape, but ask for you to indicate whether you would be available to teach face-to-face (with appropriate social distancing and other precautions). We will use this information to make thoughtful and informed decisions for the Fall 2020 semester. Please know, however, that there may be situations where it is simply not possible to honor every personal preference.

For this reason, we are asking you to complete the following questionnaire. SPS faculty do not need to complete the survey as all courses are already online. Data contained in your survey response will go to the Office of Institutional Research. Specific medical information will not be shared with Department Chairs or Deans. If any follow-up is needed, a Human Resources Consultant will contact you directly and will work with you to navigate the ADA accommodation process.

Thank you for completing this survey before June 12 and for your continued commitment to our students.

Thank you and God bless,

Chet Gillis, Ph.D.
Interim Provost