June 1, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We write today to provide an update on reopening the UC Hastings Law campus. The City has just released a reopening plan with additional businesses and other organizations approved to reopen starting June 1 with continuing phases extending through the summer and beyond. Also, in anticipation of reopening, the City has released a corresponding new Public Health order expanding face covering requirements. And yet, much remains uncertain about how resumption of in-person activity will work. We will monitor developments and provide our own more detailed reopening plans later this month. We are also addressing the situation on the streets around campus, both through our lawsuit and by assessing our security protocols and program. We can say now that we will largely retain the status quo in the month of June by keeping our campus virtual with most faculty and staff continuing to work from home. In July, we anticipate bringing additional employees to campus in phases for orientations and the start of the fall semester in August. Taking conditions and individual circumstances into account, we will work with employees and their managers on a case-by-case basis to determine when they will return to campus.

The City’s reopening plan states that schools are included in Phase 3, which is scheduled for “mid-August – to be determined.” At the same time, we do not yet know precisely what Public Health will require of us or the precise date that they will allow for in-person instruction. Nevertheless, we continue to prepare for the fall term, using the information we have about the likely regulatory environment. We are proceeding with these planning efforts pursuant to our guiding principles of providing a meaningful in-residence experience for our 1Ls, to the extent feasible, and providing our 2L and 3L students options for both in-residence and virtual instruction. As to faculty and staff, consistent with CDC guidance, we will seek to balance encouragement of teleworking, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, with our need to provide a rich and supportive experience to our on-campus students.

As to the specifics of our recovery program and plan, we will include clear and specific guidance in the form of a return to work document for all faculty and staff later in June, followed by a similar return to campus document for our students. In that guidance, we will address cleaning and disinfection, supplies, social distancing protocols, testing, screening, what to do if someone is sick, and any other issues that we need to address to safely reopen the campus. Additionally, that document will answer the questions that members of the Hastings community have asked in recent surveys.

We appreciate your patience and resilience as we navigate the next few months. Until we announce that campus has been reopened, if you need to come to campus for any reason, please contact Rhiannon Bailard or Andrew Scott, who will provide instructions. Please let us know if you have questions.
Sincerely,

Core Pandemic Response Team
- David Faigman, Chancellor & Dean
- Jenny Kwon, Assistant Chancellor & Dean/Chief of Staff
- Morris Ratner, Academic Dean
- David Seward, Chief Financial Officer
- Grace Hum, Assistant Dean of Students
- Rhiannon Bailard, Executive Director of Operations*
- Andrew Scott, Director of Human Resources*
- Sybil Wyatt, Chief Communications Officer
- John DiPaolo, General Counsel
- Camilla Tubbs, Associate Dean for Library and Technology
- Glenn Cooney, Medical Director of Student Health Services
- Jarda Brych, Director of Auxiliary Operations

*Plan Co-Administrators