

THE BUZZ: Academic Affairs Weekly Newsletter



From the Provost

Masking Policy: As you know, the presidents implemented a temporary masking policy to start the school year as our community worked to get vaccinated. The presidents recently announced that they will lift the mask requirement for classrooms on campus on October 30, 2021. Faculty and staff can continue to require individuals to wear masks while meeting in their offices or in their own classrooms. Departments or other groups may not establish policies that mandate or compel all members of a department to mask in their respective classrooms. Similarly, departments do not control “common areas,” therefore, they may not compel specific masking behavior in those spaces either. Collegiality and mutual support are encouraged, but authority on masking mandates ultimately resides with the presidents. I hope this clarifies any misunderstanding about the authority to make masking decisions.

Academic Program Prioritization

Criteria Update: The Steering Committee has been actively compiling the feedback provided on 9/24 and we are currently making adjustments to the criteria. While we intended to share a working set of criteria on 9/15, we needed a little more time to share our updates with the Data Committee. If we are not able to share the working criteria with you the week of 10/18 another update will be sent as to when you can expect to see these.

Program Prioritization Canvas page: We have created a Canvas page to enhance your ability to find information and documents related to the process of Academic Program Prioritization. You should be able to see it in your Canvas dashboard (a link to Canvas is in the [directory](#)) and is available at this [link](#). All communications and documents will be posted here.

Pandemic Planning Committee Update

Update to Classroom Masking policy (October 14): <https://www.csbsju.edu/covid-19/campus-communications/101421-mask-update>

Faculty members testing positive for COVID: If a faculty member tests positive for COVID, the first step is for them to notify their chair and the dean of the faculty. Then they need to complete the Employee COVID-19 Positive test report: <https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/9YOSN6M3Z0>. The report ensures that HR and our employee COVID coordinator, Ganard Orionzi, are notified of the case. Ganard will work with the faculty member to identify close contacts and to advise the faculty member as they isolate. It is important for the dean of the faculty to know about positive test cases, as the dean can then work with

the chair to ensure that the classes are being covered (including advocating for a short- or long-term substitute if needed) and that the faculty member is being supported.

Staff testing positive for COVID: If a staff member tests positive for COVID, the first step is to notify their supervisor and complete the Employee COVID-19 Positive test report: <https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/9Y0SN6M3Z0>. The report ensures that HR and our employee COVID coordinator, Ganard Orionzi, are notified of the case. Ganard will work with the staff member to identify close contacts and to advise them as they isolate.

Registrar

Midterm grades due October 20, 2021: *see email sent from the registrar's office on 10/11 for more information*

IT Services

A new workshop <https://www.csbsju.edu/instructional-technology/technology-training/training-workshops> is now being offered on "ePortfolios for Student Reflection." This session digs into ePortfolios as a high impact practice to spur reflective thinking about learning. Please sign up if you're interested and if you have any feedback on other potential topics for workshops contact Miranda Novak mnovak@csbsju.edu.

Research and Grants Office

Announcing 2021-2022 Faculty Writing Retreats: Faculty writing retreats are back! Come devote a couple days to writing that book proposal, journal article, conference paper, manuscript, grant proposal, tenure file, or whatever in a supportive place with good company, beautiful views, and shared meals with colleagues. Options available for overnight or day participation, on or off campus. Check out what's available and sign up! Have suggestions or were hoping for something else? Reach out! We want to hear from you. [More Information](#)

Seeking Faculty Reviewers for 22-23 Scholarship & Creative Work Awards: Want to learn more about what your colleagues are working on? Gain insights for crafting your future proposals? The Research and Grants Office is looking for 4 faculty members (one per division) to serve on the 2022-2023 Scholarship & Creative Work Award review committee. Work will take place between Nov. 9-19. Please e-mail Karlyn Forner if you're interested or have questions. **Committee members cannot submit an application for the award cycle that they're reviewing.

Faculty Governance

Joint Faculty Assembly (JFA) meeting; Thursday, November 4 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Joint Faculty Senate (JFS) meeting; Tuesday, November 16 4:30 -6:00 p.m.

For more information regarding these meeting watch for emails from jfachairandvicechair@csbsju.edu

Development Opportunity

Anne Phibbs, who led the fall academic workshop in 2020, will be back on campus this week to provide a "Beyond Diversity 101" training for faculty and staff on **Friday, October 22 from 12-4p** at the Multicultural Center. **Beyond Diversity 101: Micro-inequities, Implicit Bias, and Moving Towards Equity:** Many of us have been involved with diversity training that focuses on cultural difference and respecting all perspectives. While this is a good start, we cannot move toward true equity in our workplaces, organizations, and personal relationships until we address historical and institutional inequality. If you are available, please sign up today! Here is the [link to register](#).

The Buzz on Campus

"Walking with Kierkegaard: Life Lessons" - Wednesday, October 20th at 4 p.m. Quad 264

"At the risk of seeming histrionic, there was a time when Kierkegaard grabbed me by the shoulder and pulled me back from the crossbeam and rope." So says Gordon Marino about Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard's influence on his life. Come join us for the 2nd Grand Illuminations lecture. Gordon Marino, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy (St. Olaf), will offer an engaging, thoughtful perspective on living "authentically in an inauthentic age." [More Information](#)

CSB SJU Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Fall Concert: Join the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band for the fall installment of their 2021/2022 Concert Series on Wednesday, **October 20th at 7:30pm in Escher Auditorium** on the CSB campus. [More Information](#)

Benedictine Institute Hosts: "Building" Community: New Science 150: The Benedictine Institute invites all faculty, staff, and monastic community members to partake in good conversation and complimentary goodies. This is purely a community-building event; there is no agenda. These gatherings are come-and-go as you please and will rotate among buildings each Friday morning. Join us **THIS Friday, October 22 in Main Building: Teresan Reception Center any time between 9:00-10:45 a.m.**

Women's Choir Concert: Join the CSB/SJU Women's Choir for the inspiring "Still We Rise" concert that is directed by Susan Zemlin and accompanist Marcia Handahl **October 24 at 2:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel**. This is a free event presented by the CSB/SJU Music Department [More Information](#)

Do you have information for The Buzz?

If you have information you would like included in The Buzz please submit to this link:

[The BUZZ information](#)