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Stetson Law

Fall 2021 Update with Dean Michele Alexandre

05/19/2021

1:00 p.m.

[Captioner standing by.]

>> Good afternoon, everyone. We are just going to pause for a few seconds here to allow everyone to get into the room.

And then we'll start momentarily.

If you are just joining us, we are just waiting for everyone to join in, and we'll start in a moment.

Okay.

Good afternoon, everyone. And welcome to today's Stetson university college of law admitted student Webinar. My name is Karla Davis Jamison I'm the assistant Dean for enrollment at Stetson law. My cohost today are Darren kettles director of admissions and Carmen Johnson director of recruitment and diversity. The topic is the update on the fall 2021 plan to fully return to campus. We are partially returned to fully returned in the fall. Many of you have been inquiring and we have lots of questions for what the plan looks like for the fall. We wanted to bring you the Webinar as an opportunities to learn more about the plans to return to campus safely in the --

Professor Terri Radwan and they will discuss the planning that's currently under way to return to full on campus in-person teaching in fall, 2021. They'll also discuss the fall 2021 academic schedule, and our safety precautions and measures now and for fall 2021.

Following the panel decision, Dean Alexandre, Dean Bent and Professor Radwan will take questions. Feel free to post your questions in the Q and A feature here at any time. We'll reserve plenty of time at the end to respond to questions following the presentation. With that, I want to hand it over to Dean Alexandre.

>> Thank you, Karla and thank you for joining us, everyone. It is wonderful to get to know you before you arrive at Stetson. That's always our treat. I'll just say a few words about I guess, the past 15 months I think it's worth pausing to share with you. You have with my co panelists really instrumental team members who helped ensure our safety. So all the questions you may have on that, please don't be shy. For the past 15 months, what we have done is that we have created a structure for the university, which

Professor Radwan co-chaired and we also have a parallel college law safe for Stetson she college of law. As you know we have two campuses to keep safe. Meaning that thanks to the

hard work of everyone, the whole community and our consistent vetting of the measures and responsiveness to the needs of the communities, we were able to keep our numbers low. We do have a public display of how well we did during the pandemic and at the college of law, we never exceeded 13 cases at one time.

We remain under .5 percent. We don't say this to be boastful because no one could control the pandemic but simply say it to illustrate how hard our community works to make sure you are safe. In light of that, having learned from the past 15 months, where we implemented screening -- we had a software to help people keep safe and an app which you are more familiar with. We also had physical distancing, and invested in our technology so that we could have maximization of the spacing. We turned the whole campus into a classroom.

Additionally in the last few weeks, we brought vaccine to campus. So we are able to vaccinate the students that desire to do so. The second round of the vaccine will take place shortly. We'll make it available for frequently as we approach the fall semester. We also had gait way testing in the spring when will help ensure both the gateway testing for example I'm vaccinated but I still test so I can be extra safe. That also ensured our safety. There's nothing like every week making available the testing so that we can also rest assured in our measures.

We did find that masks, masking, paid off and in the community, we remain faithful to the mandates of the masks. I say all that to explain where we have been. Now we are ushering the new gradual return to normal, we don't know what normal looks like post pandemic particularly in the next 4 to 6 months. What we do know are a few things. We'll be back in campus in full force in extended presence as close to maximum physical presence in the classroom as possible. Which means you will be face-to-face in your instruction. If you do have some specific requirements, you will be able to reach out to Dean Bent, who is on the screen and can tell you more and explain what those requirements are, and we'll work with you.

But we do plan for the students to be face-to-face. As you know, but I feel obligated to say, you are all first year law students upcoming, you will hear it from us a lot. The ADA regulates us and that means we have to be careful with how we implement the classroom instruction and our absences and everything.

So and the ADA only gives us a waiver for the accommodations we are talking about for one semester. As far as we know the ADA even more anticipate we are going back to normal in the spring. Keep that in mind as we why we proceed careful.

What we do say and I know Professor Radwan will say more about it. Our ability to be as free as possible in our return to normal including be able to hug each other and all that, with the fellow classmates will depend on the percentage of the population that's vaccinated. That means the more you can get vaccinated, the better and safer we'll be. And we truly hope there will be a day where we no longer need to wear masks. The university makes the policies that apply to all of us on that. In the meantime, the quickest way to speed up the policies is for all of us to get vaccinated. If you want to know more about the vaccine, we can help and. That's all I'll say with my instruction and I'll turn it over to associate Dean Bent and Professor Radwan to fill in what I have left.

Jason, do you want to go next?

>> Sure. I want to say welcome to everyone. It's to great -- I don't get to see all of your faces but it's great to meet you. I hope that you take advantage of your opportunity to ask some questions. I know

that -- coming to law school is a big endeavor no matter what. Especially big and strange right now during COVID. But I also wanted to say I'll tell you a little bit about what I did and describe the difference between what you are doing right now and what the incoming class was doing one year ago today. The incoming class one year ago today, we were scrambling to change the academic calendar, meaning the dates this you were actually in school for the fall. We were scheduling classes in rooms that are not designed generally to be classrooms and we retro fitted these rooms to work well as classrooms.

Basically, we have a room that holds about 140 and I was told you can only put 40 people in there and they have to be six feet apart. We had to redesign the schedule to do that. That was getting students used to the idea of having classes on Saturday or Sunday. We did that, and every incoming students last year had one class either Saturday or Sunday. We were really nimble and I'm really proud of what we did in order to make sure that we could keep delivering in person education last year in a safe way. We did that and I'm really proud of what we did

You are lucky because you are in a situation where we have gotten the hang of it and know what we are doing and we have made adjustments and we are hoping that we get close to something much more like normal in the fall when you will be entering in August.

I'm going to give you a basic overview of what fall looks like. Orientation starts on August 7th to the 14th. The first day of classes is August 16th, which is a Monday. And it will be a 12-week semester. That means your classes that are four credits will meet twice a week for two hours each day that they meet. You will come in if you are a full time student, you will have criminal law, contracts and civil procedure, as well as your research and writing one class. That will be your fall semester. We'll wrap up the classes and actually get exams done before thanks giving and that was a COVID based adjustment. We are keeping that for the fall.

If the spring -- in the spring the plan is to move back to the 13-week semester. Criminal law, contracts and civil procedure and research and writing one.

To about 36 or so students that's the general break down for research and writing one. The other classes will be a full section of first year students and -- except that we are working hard to try to be able to give you one of the other -- classes in a smaller group. So basically half of your section. You will have three sections the first years, you will all take your criminal law class, contracts law and civil procedures classes together. Except one of the three classes will be broken in half. That's the plan right now and we are trying to make sure we can make that happen.

If you are an incoming part time student, you will take classes at night. Contracts and torts will be your classes for the fall. Again, a 12-week semester and exams to be finished before thanks giving that's a COVID adjustments. That's the basic plan we are moving back to all in person. Anything not in person, will be sort of a special arrangement accommodation situation. We are expecting in person and all the faculty members are coming back in person. Those are in person classes I was talking about. We are really excited that we are able to do. We learned a lot over the last year. And like I said, I'm proud of what we did. We managed to do in person education at the height of the pandemic and do it safely.

We are confident we are going to be able to do it safely again in the fall with the vaccinations increasing and hopefully increasing before August. I echo Dean Alexandre's sentiment that we want to increase vaccinations because that ensures us that we can do it safely. We are looking forward to welcoming you all to campus for the orientations and for the classes.

If you have any questions about academics, please come talk to me or the registrar's office we are the ones setting up the schedules and making sure the arrangements are ready for you. If you have any questions, come to me or the registrar's office. One last thing, as soon as you get access to the e-mail account, check your e-mail you will get important communication through that e-mail. That's the basic academic update for me.

>> I think that takes it to me to talk about COVID protocols. Before I do that, I thought I would take a moment to say I know that this is -- it's a little scary getting ready to go to law school. I remember the night before I left to go to law school saying to my mom, I think I made a mistake and maybe I shouldn't go. Obviously, she did what moms do and told me to go and I did and I made a career out of it. It's scary when embarking on your career. I hope your experience is as amazing as my experience was and you want to make a career out of it. We are looking forward to helping you with that transition. My role as Dean Alexandre mentioned is to introduce you to some of what we already know we are doing in the fall with COVID protocols and let you know where we don't quite have decisions made.

I have spent the better part of year working with the task force and we have been working with the science and CDC guidelines and various higher Ed guidelines throughout the year and making changes. As Dean Alexandre mentioned there's a consistent vetting process we are going through. We meet weekly to talk about whether changes are warranted. So I will tell you that what we have right now will probably look different by August. I anticipate that there will be some relaxation of some of the COVID protocols by the time we get the campus. On campus we are still in full face covering and distancing mode. That means everyone on campus are wearing face covering and physically distancing from others.

We have made one significant change. Instead of having 6-foot distancing in the classroom, come fall, we are at 3-foot distancing in the classroom per CDC.

Then we are able to actually increase the number of students who can be in the classroom. That means that you are going to be able to in a little bit conversational mode with your classmates. For the upper class man that means there are more seats in the most popular classes they want to be in. I think that's a positive move for us. We anticipate, like I said, more relaxation as we go forward.

A few things I can tell you for certain in the fall. We'll have gait way testing. Dean Alexandre mentioned that we did that this past year. We'll have gateway testing again come fall. All the students and faculty and staff will all test before coming back to campus. There will be some exceptions. If you have been, vaccinated, which is the next thing that I want to make sure everyone knows. As you have heard, we really do see vaccination as the key to the return to normalcy on campus. And what that means, is not only do we encourage you to get vaccinated, if you are able to be vaccinated but most importantly let us know you are vaccinated.

We have a portal and when you are officially and-in and get the -- in and get the e-mail you will have an invitation to let us know you have been vaccinated and you need to upload it into the system. We can't make decisions on that basis if we don't know that. I urge you if you are vaccinated please make sure you let us know you are vaccinated.

Of course, if you become ill at any point in time, we need to know that as well so we can help with accommodations and make sure you are getting the resources you need. Hopefully, the

situation will be such that the bigger reporting is going to be vaccinations come fall.

Thank you.

>> Nice. Karla, did you want us to open the floor to questions?

>> Yes. With -- we have some questions here now. Actually Professor Radwan just answered the first one. If we are vaccinated, would you like us to let you know, the answer is yes. We encourage you to definitely let us know. You will receive additional information about how that process works. We also have some questions about orientation, so I wanted to ask Dean Bent to respond to these.

Two questions, one, is orientation being planned as in person or virtual or a hybrid and will if in person will we be broken into small groups for orientation?

>> So yes, happy to take both of them. I also realized before I answer the question. I don't think I was maybe -- maybe I was not quite clear enough. There are no weekend classes for you guys. That's the difference between this year and last year. One of the things about 3-foot distancing, we don't need to put you on weekends.

>> Yes, no weekend classes. This is a major win for us. Thank you for clarifying that, Dean Bent.

>> I did want -- yeah answer the question. So it is hybrid. There's a portion that you complete electronically, even before you get to campus and that opens up for on the time line. I can get the details for the time line. It opens up for you in phases and the first are remote so there's videos you can watch and get basic information. The on campus part will be in person. Yes, you will be broken into small groups. In part because we actually can't fit all of you in one room. You will be broken into smaller groups for orientation and you will be doing different -- the orientation ends up being the same for all of you. It's just that you are doing different things at different times. We are breaking you up into different basically components where one group is doing component A and the other one is doing B and you switch later. You will be broken into smaller groups for orientation.

>> We have always done that, right, Jason, even before the pandemic, because we have a large class.

>> Uh-huh.

>> The next question is for you Professor Radwan, I'm collecting a few questions that are related to face masks and the requirement or restriction regarding them.

So the first question is given how effective masking for mitigating transmission at Stetson, over the past 15 months, will there be a strict mask requirement even for vaccinated students?

>> The first part, the answer right now is yes. That doesn't mean that will be the answer come August. And so, we are -- we actually have a subgroup that's focused exclusively on this issue. As you might imagine we have had lots of requests if I'm vaccinated do I need to wear a masks given the CDC guidance. We know it was an effective technique for us later. The answer right now, is unfortunately, I don't know what the answer will be on that. We'll be considering the CDC guidance, various science issues, and then we actually have another group, ACHA that we look at their guidance significantly, they are a higher Ed guidance platform. We'll look at all that information and assessing it. For now, we have not released the face covering requirement or released it in any way.

>> The second question is from a student with a hearing issue, their question is related to being able to see faces and how will their need be accommodated if there is a face mask requirement?

>> One of the first thing I did last year about a year ago now was did research in various face mask because we have that issue. So we have face masks that have a clear window. That are available for faculty

members and if that doesn't work, then we would have you work with our ADA office that can work with faculty members to make sure you have the accommodations that you need. Any student that needs any accommodations we have an ADA office that works closely with faculty members to make sure we are managing whatever the student needs in the classroom from an accommodation standpoint.

>> Thank you. Dean Bent, I have a question for you regarding the 12 week schedule. The question is: Does the adjusted 12 week COVID fall semester put us behind in hours compared to a normal schedule?

>> No, it doesn't. Some schools use 12 weeks anyway all the time. But what we did was we normally had a 13 week schedule but we adjusted 12 weeks and in order to make sure we have the same credits, we -- so that would have normally been a 150 minute class is now a 2 hour class so the minutes add up so you get the same total number of hours in the classroom and same number of total hours of work is expected from you out of the classroom. You end up with the same credit. No credits were changed for any classes.

>> Great. Another question for Dean Bent. Regarding the time frame for when students will learn their class schedules. And section numbers, class schedules, when will we find out our schedules?

>> I talked to the registrar about that this morning. The answer is mid to late June. They are thinking mid but I want to make sure if there are last minute adjustments, I said June. I said mid to late July.

>> I said ambitious.

>> Not too ambitious. Because we get a lot of movements from students and they'll change plans. If we get a section sit too early, we could lose ten from one and another enough for the other. Mid to late July, and hoping for mid-July. So that a few weeks before you get here for orientation you should know the section and what your schedules look like.

>> Yeah. When you said mid-June, I was surprised at that too. Mid July is the answer. Can you address the average faculty student ratio for fall, what we are anticipating classroom as the ratio?

>> Yeah. The R and W classes like I said, are usually running about 36 but there might be some sections that are smaller at 25 or 26 per class. And then, for the full sections, the plan is usually for about 80, 85 sometimes as high as 90 in each trial section but for you that's only two classes but one of the -- classes will be split in half and it will something like 45. So you will have a small section in either your criminal law class or contracts class or -- pro class. It will be divided in two and you will have two Professors for the small section class. That's the basic plan for the student faculty ratio. Some of it depends on how many decide to enroll. That's the basic division.

>> Okay. Can you revisit Dean Bent, the part time class schedule, what should students anticipate in terms of class meeting times, and where to -- can you readdress that?

>> Actually, let me do this. Move to the next question and I'll pull up the exact details.

>> Okay. All right.

I have a question for Professor Radwan, then. Says it looks like the vaccines may require a 6-month to one year booster, will the college of law be tracking if students are receiving boosters in a timely manner and what might be the resulting effects?

>> First of all, we'll keep an eye on whether boosters are necessary and we'll encourage them in that's what the CDC guidance says. We'll be trying to do that as well on campus to make it easy and convenient. Certainly, if we need boosters, then we are going to ask for self-reporting of that as well. Right now, everything is self-reported and there's no mandate to make sure people report. To make sure we are aware

of the status of the communities, we'll ask people, currently when you report you report the date you got to vaccine, so we'll be able to keep an eye on do we have boosters so we know the percentage of the population that's vaccinated and have gotten past the initial dose and got the booster in the appropriate amount of time.

>> And we have a question related -- what if a student tests positive for COVID, what are the precautions what is our response to a positive COVID test on campus?

>> So a positive test, let me start by saying, again we are following the CDC guidance and they are different requirements depending on whether you have been vaccinated or not and symptomatic or not. We have health services on the main campus and the contact tracer. Who when a student reports being ill, there's a form filled out. And if you report to Dean Bent for example because you need to miss classes, he will work if you to make sure the form is filled out. We have a contact tracer that contacts you and walks you through the process of what needs to happen and that's going to depend on your vaccination status and whether you are symptomatic or not, et cetera.

For example, if you are not vaccinated, you are going to be asked to isolate and not come to campus of course. We have resources available if you need help with food and things like that when in isolation. Then you would work with Dean Bent on what that might look like for alternative attendance in the classes because we would ask you not to come to campus.

At the end of the isolation period, the contact tracer will contact you again to let you know when you are officially released from isolation. The contact tracer has been wonderful on walking people through the process. Dean Bent has been great at working with you and faculty members to make sure that if you are not able to come to class because you are COVID positive, that you are not missing out and able to keep up. Hopefully, you are able to keep up if you are not too physically ill. We do everything we can to make sure you have the knowledge and that you are able to keep up with classes. That of course, does require that you let us know and of course, that's going to be a constant thing for me. The more you communicate with us on different things. COVID status and vaccination status, the --

We'll continue to have regular testing events on campus. They are not mandatory testing events. There are a small group that have to test. Of course it's voluntary. We encourage to participate in the testing events if you have not been vaccinated so you know your own COVID status.

>> Dean Bent, are we going back to the part time question?

>> Yeah. So the specific details for the part time students, so you have contracts and torts in the fall. Your contracts class will meet Monday from 6:15 to 8:15 on Tampa. Then your torts will meet on Tuesday from 6:15 to 8:15 Tampa. So only class that night. On Thursday, both classes. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Gulfport torts. And then, 8:15 to 10:15 p.m. in Gulfport contracts.

So three nights a week. One night in Gulfport with both classes which keeps you on three days a week, which most part time students prefer that to only have --

There's never any sort of guarantee that will only be three night a week, but we try and keep it on three nights a week. As best we can. Sometimes it's two night Tampa and one night Gulfport and vice versa.

>> Jason, is the orientation for part and full time together or spate?

>> Those are separately designated on campus. They are the same but they are separate.

>> Right. Thank you.

>> I have a question here about facility, campus facilities. Will the facilities such as the gym and the

student activity center be open to the students in the fall

>> Open with restrictions or open fully open?

>> I know Professor Radwan wants to take it.

>> Thank you. Dean Alexandre. But right now, they are already open. All throughout the year, we have maintained some facilities for students. We know the gym is a great stress relief for students. Right now, they are open with restrictions. For example, you need to make reservations to use things like that. We'll continue to too much some restrictions. As we see what's happening in the community as well as we see what's happening in our community, the more we know people are vaccinated, the more we can ease on the restrictions. So let us know as much as you can about vaccination status. Right now, everything has been open. I don't see any reason not to have the gym open in some capacity and the library. How much it's open and how flexible we can be will depend on the status of the population.

>> Indeed. We know it's prime real estate and we'll keep an eye on it.

>> We know it's important for wellness to work out.

The question is for all three of you. Can you comment on how open things are socially in the Stetson area? I am moving from out of state and have a slight concern I will not be able to meet people easily. The state I'm coming from has been very shut down through COVID.

>> Oh. That's a fair concern. I can say within safety, right, that Florida is probably the more open of the states. It never quite closed except maybe for the March and April period where we shut down on a county level. So you will find a thriving social life. We definitely encourage students to be safe until the CDC tells us we can mingle to our heart's pleasure like we used to. We do wear masks when we go out in public. I know when I go out with my family, I sit outside still. So that because the CDC has document it had lower risk still physically distance from everyone else, et cetera. Those are the precautions I have taken my health and my family health. I know I'm returning to the community every day and I need to make sure the community also is safe. These are the things we encourage everybody to do. I guarantee you will find friends here and the community. It's a bus community in the Tampa bay. What do you think?

>> I moved here from a city that was not friendly to outsiders. I was expecting that and I was shocked to find how open this area is. Very open community to everybody. So I think you know, obviously I moved here in a time that COVID was not happening at the time, but as the Dean noted, we have been open as a state all along. And I found the Tampa bay area is very welcoming to people not from Tampa bay.

>> Very true. Jason?

>> Yeah. I completely agree with that. I moved from Chicago down here and had no trouble sort of getting involved in the community and meeting folks. My social life now revolves around two little children so it's like only the parents of other little children. You know, I think you'll find that the downtown Gulfport and downtown St. Pete areas in Tampa are all thriving areas. Whether you agree or not, for better or worse, Florida has been pretty open. One of the great advantages we have down here we can be outside all the time. You can eat outside in January. That was one of the great things as visiting the school, I did eat outside in January. I think the Floridians that were upset at me for opting for outside, it was like 65 degrees, I was like it's great. They were like it's freezing. This is great let's go outside. Restaurants are open and there's amble outside seating. There are definitely opportunities to socialize.

>> Yeah. That never gets old. The 65 cold thing. Ever. So I have two examples that could maybe



help. The first is from Stetson law. We had two graduations one in December 2020 when we graduated our May 2020, and August 2020 classes in the December 2019. Then we had the May 2021 and August 2021 graduation. They were safe events and in person within safety guidelines and masks. The students within all of that, we celebrated and with each other and able to graduate each class respectively and relatively on time. That's not something many schools can say. You may be monitoring graduation right now. Most schools are having two graduations at once. We didn't have to do that thanks to the community. But it's also because of what I called the special Stetson law ingredient. This community pulls through and serves the students. You find a collegiately and the willingness to be together.

I have a five-year-old dance recital on Sunday, they keep the little children safe and they all mask but they are still dancing and having recitals, so you know, this is Florida and we figure out a way.

>> Very good examples.

I have two questions for Professor Radwan. One for you Dean Bent and basically a few students would like you to do the expanded version of the full time schedule, similar to what you did for the part time. So I'll come to you in a second for that. For you Professor Radwan, a question regarding the frequency of the COVID testing. How often is the gait way testing available? You did mention that it is not required, it's not mandatory. But that staff, faculty, and students are encouraged to test as often as they would like. But the question is: How often is that scheduled to happen during the fall?

>> Let me distinguish. We have two types of testing. We have gateway testing which is actually mandatory for everyone on campus unless you have been vaccinated. The gateway testing happens once. It happens in August and whether when you -- when you first come to campus. We just want to make sure that everyone coming from everywhere we are not bringing in an influx of COVID infections. To the extent that people are then determined to be COVID positive, there's an isolation period and all the things we talked about earlier. Gateway testing happens once at the beginning of the semester and it's mandatory for everyone and some expectations for the people that have been vaccinated. The other testing we have is routine periodic testing throughout the semester. We have been offering it right now every week or two. If we have a large populations that's vaccinated, they may decide not to test.

As the Dean noted, even vaccinated, she's been testing. We'll have it probably every week or two throughout the semester. We tend to ramp it up at certain times for example at graduation time, we increased because people might want to test because of relatives coming in from out of town. That testing is not mandated and it's offered periodically throughout the semester every few weeks. That's all rapid testing. So you get the results right away.

>> Uh-huh

>> And where can students find all of the safety precautions we are talking about where can they find all the information in one spot; I'm assuming the safer Stetson website?

>> It is. Let me find the web page and I'll post it in the chat. You can see the rates through the semester, the dashboard includes the main campus as well you have to filter to see the college of law campus. You will see it talk about the number of positive cases and the isolations we have and the vaccine rates. Keep in mind the numbers are odd right now because we just graduated a group of students and no new students in so not an accurate student count now. That's something you can keep an eye on and you can see historical trends as well. I see somebody posted the safer Stetson website. Perfect.

>> All right. Dean Bent, can you walk us through the full time schedule

>> I'll do the best. I'll give an example because you are not assigned. This might not be your schedule. You might be assigned to section one or three and this is two. The section two schedule has criminal law on Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 so two hour classes. They have contracts on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Those are the full -- classes.

For civil procedure, they have it Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. These are small sections, so I'll be teaching half and Christian will be teaching half. So that would be you may be split -- you will be split up for that in a class around 45, 40. Then you would have a research and writing class R and W one, you have it Tuesday and Thursday. The 8:00 a.m. or 12:00 a.m. If you are in section two, that's what your class schedule would look like.

But you might be in section one or three and your schedule may look different but roughly the same idea. Your -- classes would meet twice a week two hours each time. Two of them are full section and one of them are half section and then you have an R and W class that's around 35ish students and that meets probably Tuesday, Tuesday. Because that's what the R and W classes are meeting. For research and writing one, most of those instructors like to build out a time for a lab so that's a chance to work with you on the skills. Not just going over content but working with you on the writing skills. That is made once everyone is sorted into the schedules. I can't give you the lab time yet. That make sure the lab time goes in the slot that work for everyone. No classes on Saturday or Sunday.

>> All full time classes are in Gulfport?

>> That's correct.

>> And classes begin August 16th?

>> That's correct.

>> I'm just answering these questions.

(Laughing.)

That's all. Okay. Great.

So another question we have here it's related to COVID and clinics. Has COVID impacted the ability for students to participate in clinics and internships?

>> Well, we have had to adjust I'm happy to report the clinic participation increased by -- thanks to the people on the screen and the director of clinic Professor Christy and all the ones that help support her. We -- our help Dean Davis Jamison -- communicate with you some of the good work the clinics have done. We did share with the legal community all the experiences and the support. The short of it is, obviously, you have a period of time and then apply for the certification as -- because it's the first time you get your mini lawyer type of status and it's a warm for applying to the bar. Professor -- will be on there to help you with that. Have no fear, we are very strong in that area and have been be able to provide clinical experience to the students.

>> The only thing I would add and I have two points and you caught one of them already. You won't be eligible for clinics and internships until your first year is over. I run two of the externship programs and I think we'll be back to the normal externships. We placed the same number of students at the same number of students as I have every semester for as long as I can remember. The experience was a little bit different because not all the placements are fully open yet.

Even the summer, some of the students are in a fully remote experience and others are in a fully in person experience and some are hybrid but that's because of the restrictions the placement

has not our restrictions. We have managed to retained the externship structure from our side. For some students the remote has been a better experience for them because of the flexibility it gives. For others, they are looking forward to going back to in person experiences. We have done what we can in the environment to keep it going.

>> Terri, this is a gift for us to plug the business law concentration when our students can think about now. Do you want to say a few words about that?

>> The business law concentration is the newest concentration and we celebrated our first year. We graduated 7 students in the first year. If you are interested in business law, I would be happy to talk to you about what that program looks like so you can start prepping for that at the end of your first year.

>> Part of talking about this within clinics, there's a strong experimental component because we aim to teach you all of it including the practice.

>> Nice plug. We like plugs. One question that I was not sure we addressed; this is back to mask restrictions. Has Pell will say county lifted them?

>> We are under the governor's mandate in Florida state law. The governor's law effects counties and governments. Terri, you want to jump in and Professor Radwan is keeping a close look on that.

>> The county doesn't have a mask mandate at all anymore and several businesses have maintained it. So it's business by business. We are starting to see the county as a whole the businesses lifting the mask mandate. But as a county, because as a state, we don't have a mask mandate those are gone in our local counties as well.

>> Thank you.

>> So this question and this can be for all three of you, this question is related to working during the first year --

>> Oh --

>> Oh -- you know, is it advisable, is it not? To work during the first year of Law School?

>> Well, I'll separate it between the part time and full time. Part time students have a particularly different schedule. Although for the part time students, I too recommend you talk to us to help you manage your schedule. Law School is a full time job. It has not changed in all the decades I have been here. Since I was a Law School student. I'll share my experience. In undergrad, I had five or six jobs at a time. And still managed to be very successful in undergrad.

When I got to Law School, I thought I would have at least one job, and I did not. I stopped that one job quickly to focus in Law School. Just because you are a young adult at this point and this is your career. Law School is not try or something you do on the side, even when you are not in classes, you are learning outside of classes. More importantly, you are building on the knowledge block by interacting with colleagues and attending events and social events are something you put as a foundation for the future. I want to do share that moment -- to realize Law School -- anybody else wanted to share?

>> Sure. I'll jump in. So it's -- I would say it's discouraged to work a significant number of hours. The ability to succeed in Law School is -- requires a lot of time and more time that you might initially think. And it's very difficult to balance that with significant working obligations. Our policy says that if you are a full time first year student, you can't work more than 20 hours a week. You need to get approval but that's the to let us know what you are doing. You fill out a form and submit it to the student affairs department and I review them. We are not going to tell you you can't work at all.

We understand you may need to work and we don't want to tell you you can't. But

we want you to be aware of the impact of that on your academics and so, we'll take a look at what injury plan is for the number of hours and what kind of job it is. Once you get past the first year, except if your grades are suffering, then it's up to you. But again, Law School as a full time student is a full time thing it's hard to balance with full time work obligations. Part time is for people that are working full time. It assumes you are working full time jobs during the day and take classes three times a week. I'm impressed by the ability to balance that. A full time job is a lot and trying to cram in classes 3 times a week and one night you go until 10:15. And I'm always impressed with the part time students and the ones that pull off the balance. It requires a lot of time outside the classroom. It's not just the two hours of class, two days a week.

>> And the one last question before we sort of move into our closing. When should students who are planning to make an accommodation request, when should they begin that process?

>> So I think once you get your schedule, it's time to go ahead and put in your requests for accommodations. There's a deadline and the link is in the academic calendar and it should be available to you. The deadline for accommodations, for non-exam accommodations, the deadline is August 23rd. If you are going to request accommodations you should be touch with the accessibility resources office, so you can meet with Katherine Pelham that's head of the accessibility resources office and discuss the need for accommodations and get at what settled for you before classes start.

>> Great.

All right. So for the three of you, as a closing sort of comment, do you have any advice or guidance for students, it's May 19th, as they move into their summer and preparing to be here with us in the fall, any advice that you would give them?

>> Any advice you want to share with our wonderful students?

>> I would say don't worry too much. Don't worry too much about that. Get yourself mentally ready to start. In August. And that means, enjoy the summer.

(Laughing.)

And get yourself in position, get things in order. What's your routine going to be? What keeps you happy, exercising, by sickling.

It's an exciting first year experience for Law School.

>> Mine sounds like it contradicts with him. The best advice I can give you in Law School is not to fall behind. That includes this summer too. You will get a lot of things from the registrar's office and students life and orientation materials. Don't save them until the end of the summer. Space them out a little bit and learn about what Law School is about. They are there to help you be successful students so you know what to expect and you have all the policies and procedures and all that.

Get started on them when they come. Balance it, as Dean Bent noted, and have time to relax. You are about to engage in something that's challenging but wonderful at the same time and you will need that time.

>> Wonderful sets of advice. I think they are both valuable and true. True and not over exhaust yourself. Because you have completed quite something momentous already. You have graduated from college. Whether you took time off are coming straight, you should appreciate that accomplishment. And recover from it. Get some rest, rest, rest. The one thing we give up is rest. The students tell us that all the time too, we gain these bad habits from Law School and college. Please try and give your body some rest because there's substitute for that. Try not to fall behind on the emails, I know they are annoying but that's

us giving you information in Realtime. Try and be as responsive as possible.

I will mention the prelaw program that will start closer, right, in July. It's designed to get you introduced to Law School without the pressure of doing it on your own and trying to cram things you don't understand. I know many students want to know you how to prepare for Law School and the introduction for the particular legal skills that Dean -- will --

I encourage you to sign up and do it. Look at the face it is on the screen, we are all happy and happy to talk to you. We love Law School. It's the best game in town. You have made the right decision. I even in my first year Law School, I made my best friends, my life long partners, they are with me right now from Law School. You will too and you will enjoy it and you will remember it for decades to come. Just look forward to it. Because it will be a wonderful adventure.

>> Thank you, Dean Alexandre and Dean Bent and Professor Radwan. Thank you to the students. Your questions were great and we were thankful you can engage and participate in the dialogue. We did record the Webinar and that will be available to you in a few days. If you want to go back and hear from Dean Bent said about the schedule, again, you can do that.

As Dean Alexandre mentioned, we'll have a summer workshop that summer for admitted students. It's scheduled for July 6th through the 16th. We are actually working on delivering some save the date information to you shortly. You should watch your inbox for that information to come soon. But it is a two-week program designed to really you know, sort of get you up to speed and build your confidence for starting in the right set of -- in a successful foundation for fall.

So watch your inbox for this. Lastly, we are also planning our next series of admitted students open houses. These are again, going to be virtual experiences in June. We are -- our topics will feature academic success, student housing, financial aid, and business office resources all very important.

(Laughing.)

To your on boarding process. So watch your inbox for these details as well.

With that, I want to say thank you again for joining us today. We hope the Webinar and the information we shared was helpful. Big thanks --

>> Bye, everyone

>> Stay safe

>> See you soon.