

New England Institute of Technology



Office of the President
Richard I. Gouse

June 2, 2020

To the NEIT Community:

As we enter the fifth week of our Spring Quarter, we are greatly appreciative of all the efforts made by our faculty, staff and, most of all, our students. Your collective diligence and creativity have made the transition to remote learning rewarding and of value to the future success of our academic community.

We know that there are many uncertainties in all aspects of your lives right now. As you may be aware, the Governor of Rhode Island and her administration have formulated a carefully conceived three phased plan for the reopening of life in the state. Phase 1 allowed the partial opening of certain businesses and services. We are now in Phase 2 where we will see the opening of more enterprises, including colleges and universities. Phase 3 is anticipated to begin later this summer and will similarly expand openings and may allow larger group gatherings.

NEIT has been developing a plan to return academic programs to campus in conjunction with the recommendations of the governor's office and the Rhode Island Department of Health. As our plan continues to evolve, we are guided by certain important principles: the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and the community of which we are a part; the future success of our students and the need to remain flexible, respectful and understanding of others as we continue to adapt to the coronavirus.

Although the plan will not be operational until the Rhode Island Department of Health reviews and comments on it, we thought it would be helpful to present the basic elements of the plan to the campus community. The broad parameters of the plan are relatively simple. The success of our plan will depend on the entire NEIT community exhibiting appropriate responsible behaviors for:

- Physical distancing
- Wearing face coverings
- Personal hygiene
- Cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, and
- Other guidance you will be receiving over the coming months

Our plan will allow for progressively more classes and labs to take place on-campus over time. This approach will be deliberate and will enable us to fine-tune each phase of the plan as it progresses and to return to campus as safely as possible over the coming months.

Phase 1 – Spring Quarter – Where we are now.

- Most learning is remote. A few classes, however, may return to campus on a limited basis as the quarter progresses.
- All non-essential university offices, including all student support services and Admissions, continue to operate remotely.
- Dining, Student Activities, the Fitness Center and other campus life programs are inactive.
- The residence hall remains closed.

Phase 2 – Summer Quarter – Where we are going.

- We will see a limited number of classes and lab sessions return to be on-campus. Other learning will continue remotely.
- Certain university administrative offices may be returning to campus.
- The Dining Center will offer limited food options.
- Student Activities, the Fitness Center and other campus life programs will remain inactive.
- The Residence Hall will remain closed.

Phase 3 – Fall Quarter – Where we will be.

- We will see an increased number of classes and lab sessions on-campus. Other learning will continue remotely.
- Increased staffing of university offices will return to campus. Other staff will be encouraged to work from home.
- The Dining Center will increase the food options available to the campus community.
- The Fitness Center, Student Activities and other campus life programs will open with occupancy and participation limited by certain relevant guidelines.
- The residence hall is anticipated to open with reduced occupancy.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the success of minimizing the impacts of COVID-19 on our campus and the entire community rests with all of us as a shared responsibility. Every member of our community must do her or his part. This means adhering to national, state, and local health guidelines and requirements, and adhering to those measures New England Tech deems safe and appropriate for its campus.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication that each of you have contributed to the on-going success of our NEIT community. Although perhaps not ideal, our faculty, student advisors and students have persevered in formulating remote learning experiences with admirable outcomes. We now look forward to returning to campus soon, even if only in a measured way. Conditions for reopening are improving, but there is still a lot of work to be done. As we continue with our planning, we must remain flexible. If things change, we will adapt. We will continue to be diligent, committed to our students' advancement and respectful of the safety of all.

I wish you all well. Please be safe.



Richard I. Gouse President