

## STL Graduates Brown Bag Zoom Meeting for High School Counselors and Access Advisers

April 3, 2020 Summary Notes

Laura welcome everyone and offered a chance to check in. Lots of people feeling overwhelmed, exhausted and tired, but also some gratitude and hope. Laura led a breathing relaxation exercise that we can use personally and with students and families.

Alan shared that everything is very uncertain with universities right now. Lots of changes are happening and will continue to happen. Keep checking websites and reaching out with questions.

University admissions updates were provided from several guests:

UMSL – Dixie Williams

- ACT/SAT – considering students on a case by case basis – if they have applied and were unable to re-take the ACT/SAT, they should contact UMSL admissions to check in on their status.
- Offering live chats with admissions staff for students
- High school grades – monitoring what different districts are doing. They will need final transcripts when they are available. Will work with students individually.
- Orientation – will be remote/virtual over the summer
- Changes are happening day by day. Check the UMSL COVID Site and encourage students to check their email.
- Academic support has also gone virtual – for both current and incoming students.

Missouri State – Rob Hornberger and Jimi Sode

- Staff is working from home.
- Mail is received and processed twice a week. Admission packets being mailed and emailed.
- Students/Counselors can send documents to [admissions@missouristate.edu](mailto:admissions@missouristate.edu) (transcripts, letters of rec, ACT scores, etc.)
- Calling all admitted students. Continuing texting and emailing communications as well.
- Staff is available by email and phone
- Virtual visits are available for students and families
- Virtual tour at: <https://www.missouristate.edu/admissions/visitcampus.htm#>
- Several scholarships, continue to be accepted throughout the summer
- Continue to have no application fee
- ACT/SAT – 3.25 GPA or greater – no test score needed – other situations considering on a case by case basis.
- University will accept unofficial in-progress grades, or a student's most recent semester of final grades, for admission purposes. Official last semester final grades will not be required until a student registers for spring 2021 classes.
- Confirmation fee refund date moved to June 1
- Summer orientation – changed from two to one days sessions, hoping for on campus in July – this may change

- Livestreams on youtube with tours and updates
- COVID site with updates to students, faculty, and staff; FAQ's  
<https://www.missouristate.edu/>  
<https://www.missouristate.edu/admissions/coronavirus.htm>
- Commencement postponed – students want a live event at some point
- Pass/not pass is an option for current students for spring classes
- Registration for summer and fall 2020 will now begin April 6 (moved from March 30) – advising appointments have been through virtual meetings
- Students can drop or modify a course until May 1 (moved from April 3).
- 

#### SEMO – Lenell Hahn

- COVID page with updates from many departments – admissions section with FAQ
- Texting and emailing student updates
- Staff is available via email and phone – can request a virtual meeting with staff via Calendly
- Virtual campus visits – video or pictures, also live walking tours
- Can also connect with current students and faculty– contact Casey Hohler
- Scholarship deadline extended to June 1
- No application fee
- Test optional was set at 3.5, now at 3.0
- Case by case basis down to a 2.75 GPA for admissions – paired with an academic coach
- Students can reach out to admissions for a holistic review
- SEMO will not rescind admissions for a dropped 2<sup>nd</sup> semester GPA or incomplete courses
- Orientation – 2 already completed, other dates are proceeding virtually – students can enroll in courses, participate in online modules. Hoping for on campus orientation later in the summer.
- Picking up mail 3x a week
- Not mailing any acceptance packets – email only acceptances
- Staff mentors for current students – helping them navigate online courses, checking in and navigating this new life

#### Webster – Joanna Finch

- Next year – will be test optional – moving up the policy to enact it now
- Holistic reviews – 3.0+ GPA for automatic admission
- Individual reviews/case by case basis
- GPA used for merit scholarships
- Staff is meeting next week to talk about orientation
- Visits available virtually
- Faculty and Gorlock guides can also meet with students virtually
- COVID page with updates
- Chat group for confirmed and admitted students
- Electronic admit packages
- Staff is working from home – available via email and phone

#### Maryville – Jim Winslow

- Virtual tours on website
- Current students transitioned fairly easily – they already use iPads
- Transcripts emailed from counselor are accepted – can be emailed, does not need to be mailed – can send the official transcript in August or when schools open
- Staff is fully remote
- Electronic acceptance letters
- Financial aid is still processing and packaging students
- Students/families can text/email/call staff
- Daily admissions presentations – 9:30 and 1:30 for freshmen, 3:30 for transfers
- Live chats with the president and VP
- Automatic scholarships are available until August
- Don't worry about these spring classes – just don't fail everything
- Considering students on a case by case basis
- Reach out with any questions

Universities are collaborating and learning from each other

Financial aid updates (more coming next week) and Housing

- Webster – financial aid staff is available for appointments to help with verification
- SEMO – re-evaluating available funds to make sure students have the most funds possible, no changes to housing deadlines
- Maryville – no housing deadline – open until rooms are full
- UMSL – financial aid has virtual appointments. Working on making the verification process all virtual. Checking mail once a week.

Most changes right now are temporary, but colleges will evaluate to see if they may work for the long term.

Missouri State and SEMO will have no application fee next year.

Recruitment – StriveScan is planning a national virtual college tour later in April. MOACAC part of it and many MO colleges. Link on STLG COVID-19 resource page.

- Colleges are looking for ideas – please share if you have any!

Colleges are finding more parent communication and interaction with everyone at home and using virtual communication

Resources to Share:

- The St Louis Graduates Resource page is frequently updated – check for the latest information
- Gateway Resilience Fund – through the St. Louis Community Foundation – \$500 grants available for people who have lost their jobs in area small businesses (local restaurants, retail, etc.). Must be a small local business.
- Scholarship Central – COVID-19 page on website with updates on deadlines. Many have changed. Encourage student to link to it.
- Talking Points – translation app – helpful for communicating with families
- Natissia Small – UMSL Student Success Resources (link on STLG COVID page)

- Academic Coaching is available virtually
  - Focusing on more direct conversations vs lots of emails
  - Virtual workshops
  - Success workshops for k-12 coming soon
  - Bridge to ACT summer program will be virtual
  - Summer Academy will also be virtual
  - 2.4 GPA and below – success coaches are working with students online
  - Virtual tutoring – now available on weekends
- DESE senior resources – on STLG resource page
  - Decision Day – Laura encouraged participants to think about what decision day looks like this year – does it make sense to focus on decision in a time of so much indecision? Teresa from Scholarship Central is happy to talk to anyone about Decision Day and encourages counselors to reconsider having one this year.
  - WUCAC is working on a blog project with virtual resources on a number of topics. They are open to collaboration.

Next week's call will be at 2 pm (not Noon) – MASFAP and ACT partners will join us to provide updates.

#### **CHAT NOTES**

- 11:52:12        From Laura Winter : Hi everyone! Welcome! We will start in a few minutes.
- 11:52:41        From Laura Winter : We will use the chat function to share questions and reactions today. Please thank Ashley June Moore for facilitating our chat!
- 11:53:10        From Laura Winter : Kaitlyn Venta will take our notes and we are recording our meeting.
- 11:53:26        From khadijatejan : Thanks Ashley!!!
- 11:53:48        From Laura Winter : FYI, when you use chat, if you PM someone else on this call, your "private" chat will be part of the transcript. Lesson learned for all of us!
- 11:59:04        From Russell Brannen : Hello, Hello!
- 11:59:15        From hhowell : H Everyone.
- 11:59:22        From Tashanna : Hi! :)
- 11:59:33        From Joanna Finch : Hello everyone!
- 11:59:34        From Russell Brannen : Thank you for having us here!
- 12:02:29        From Bryan Capers : Exhausted
- 12:02:31        From hhowell : overwhelmed for sure!

12:02:31 From KatieMeyer : Overwhelmed  
12:02:32 From Becky Ford Haffner : tired  
12:02:35 From Mrs. Cindy Burreson : overwhelmed  
12:02:36 From Victoria Reeves : Tired  
12:02:36 From Kacheena Lucas : Refreshed  
12:02:37 From Shanise Johnson : Hopeful!  
12:02:37 From connielitz : overwhelmed  
12:02:37 From Kaitlyn Venta : Grateful  
12:02:38 From CHELSEA FORESEE : Weird  
12:02:38 From d.anderson : Grateful  
12:02:39 From Joanna Finch : BUSY  
12:02:39 From Derrick Small Jr. : Unsure  
12:02:40 From veraj : overwhelmed  
12:02:40 From MacKenzie Gleason : confused  
12:02:41 From Mikyla Murphy : anxious  
12:02:41 From Alan Byrd : Exhausted  
12:02:42 From Russell Brannen : Motivated  
12:02:42 From teresa : Overwhelmed  
12:02:43 From Marvin Bullard : encouraged  
12:02:43 From Blair Dammerman : Adjusting and rejuvenated  
12:02:44 From Praisyy : Hopeful  
12:02:44 From kampschroederj : Grateful for your leadership Laura!  
12:02:44 From mgiunta : Overwhelmed  
12:02:46 From CeAira Sargent : TGIF  
12:02:46 From khadijatejan : overwhelmed  
12:02:47 From Kayla Denzik : Energized  
12:02:48 From Kayleigh Rogers : exhausted  
12:02:49 From Monica Fleisher : Motivated  
12:02:51 From Tashanna : Encouraged

12:02:52 From Marlana Hairston : tired

12:02:54 From Brian Kruger : Grateful

12:02:54 From Margaret Brockmeyer : Joyful!

12:02:54 From Mark Steinlage Jr. : Ready for the weekend!

12:02:55 From lharvey : I'm good

12:02:59 From Jamie Pollard : Overwhelmed and also grateful

12:03:06 From Jennifer : informed and uninformed at the same time! Lots of questions however feeling very Blessed

12:03:14 From connielitz : sad

12:03:32 From Linh Mach : Friday funday :)

12:05:37 From Amanda Samuels : hopeful, grateful, educated, and energized!

12:07:16 From Kaitlyn Venta : potentially helpful article/audio about selecting a college during this time - <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/01/825486336/heres-how-to-pick-a-college-during-coronavirus>

12:12:35 From Matt Newlin : To all the institutions: How are students being notified of updates and changes? Institution email? Or a school webpage?

12:15:05 From Kaitlyn Venta : Jimi - can you repeat or share the email that students can use to send admissions information?

12:15:14 From Dixie Williams : <https://www.umsl.edu/admissions/Admissions-COVID-19.html>

12:15:27 From Matt Newlin : Thank you!

12:15:34 From Jennifer : Are the updates being captured in the notes for review later?

12:15:51 From Jimi Sode : [admissions@missouristate.edu](mailto:admissions@missouristate.edu)

12:15:55 From Kaitlyn Venta : Yes - I am taking notes! will send to Laura and she will share on the STL Graduates site

12:16:07 From Jimi Sode : <https://www.missouristate.edu/admissions/coronavirus.htm>

12:18:22 From khadijatejan : Also wanted to mention that UMSL Financial Aid is available via e-mail!! Chris Bowen has been amazing!!!

12:18:24 From Alan Byrd : UMSL has weekly communication going out to current and prospective students. We are also updating the websites in Admissions and Financial Aid on a regular basis to keep everyone informed on changes to our deadlines and business operations.

12:19:10 From Matt Newlin : Thanks, @alan!

12:19:56 From Margaret Brockmeyer : Way to go, SEMO! That is a fantastic way to connect with students!

12:20:25 From Matt Newlin : ^^ Agreed. SEMO is doing a great job!

12:21:14 From teresa : BRAVO SEMO on the waiver of the admissions application fee and extension of the scholarship deadline!

12:21:33 From Natissia Small : Love my alma mater! Great job!!!

12:22:58 From Russell Brannen : Awesome! Glad students who struggle a bit in their final semester because of the online transitions won't be penalized.

12:23:17 From d.anderson : Awesome SEMO!

12:23:23 From khadijatejan : YASSSSS SEMO!!!

12:24:49 From Amber Mitchell : My exact thoughts Khadjiah! Lol! I see you SEMO!!!

12:28:25 From Becky Ford Haffner : How will going test-optional affect merit scholarship

12:28:27 From Russell Brannen : Way to go with test optional policies everyone!

12:28:28 From Becky Ford Haffner : consideration?

12:28:47 From jwinslow : <https://www.maryville.edu/about/visit/>

12:28:57 From Becky Ford Haffner : Great — thank you!

12:29:41 From Joanna Finch : [www.webster.edu/virtualvisit](http://www.webster.edu/virtualvisit)

12:32:00 From hhowell : I work at a residential facility. We had to send all of our scholars home. Which means we aren't having regular access to our mail. Are schools sending acceptance emails to students as well?

12:33:06 From iPhone : Reminder that MOACAC is partnering with StriveScan for a Virtual College Exploration week, April 20-23. A full schedule of sessions should be released early next week to MOACAC high school members and posted to our website. Students will be able to sign up for sessions on various college planning topics or specialty groups of colleges.

12:33:30 From hhowell : Thank you!!!

12:33:36 From Kaitlyn Venta : thank you universities! these updates are so helpful and your changes are so appreciated!

12:34:12 From Russell Brannen : I second Kaitlyn's sentiment. THANK YOU!

12:34:37 From Matt Newlin : You're all doing amazing things for our students. Thank you!!

12:35:04 From khadijatejan : For other institutions outside of UMSL , how are you navigating Verification?

12:35:37 From khadijatejan : Also, will there be changes to housing for articulating seniors?

12:36:27 From khadijatejan : \*articulating

12:36:51 From Jennifer : This meeting is so helpful. I cannot wait to share these assurances with the CH CAPS students. My plan is to provide each of the college websites again THANKS for all that each of you are doing!!!

12:39:27 From Andrew Smith : Are these admissions changes temporary or do institutions plan on keeping these changes for the long-term?

12:44:33 From Andrew Smith : What recruitment strategies are being utilized since schools are closed and events have been cancelled?

12:45:25 From Mrs. Cindy Burreson : Thanks to all!

12:45:44 From Jamie Pollard : Thank you so much for all the great information!

12:48:06 From Jennifer to Ashley June Moore(Privately) : Thank you both so much this has been very helpful. I will need to jump off to participate in another meeting. Hopefully when we meet next week I can flash a big smile lol whew tech overload.

12:49:18 From Dawn Michel : Thanks for organizing this event and thanks to the universities for providing information that is very helpful to our students.

12:51:17 From Kaitlyn Venta : Scholarship Central COVID-19 Page with updated deadlines - <https://myscholarshipcentral.org/covid-19-update/>

12:51:36 From Kaitlyn Venta : Scholarship Central how to videos - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWMuaqVGDjmo30ljgpJIMGA>

12:51:53 From hhowell : Thank you all! I have to jump on another meeting!!! Thanks for all that you do for our students.

12:52:03 From Becky Ford Haffner : Ditto! Thanks to all!

12:52:10 From Lenell Hahn : SEMO Links: COVID19 Admissions FAQ: <https://semo.edu/sealerts/covid19/admissions-info.html>, Virtual Visit Page: <https://semo.edu/visit/index.html>, YouTube Playlist: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdK\\_a8Y1Ror5\\_Oe2-opSNDh1ic2WfVH2a](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdK_a8Y1Ror5_Oe2-opSNDh1ic2WfVH2a)

12:52:12 From Joanna Finch to Ashley June Moore(Privately) : Thank you for the invitation today. I am going to jump on another meeting. Please reach out if you need anything!

12:52:15 From Staff-iPad-luraschm00 : thank you everyone,

12:52:37 From Ashley June Moore to Joanna Finch(Privately) : Thanks for joining!

12:52:57 From Joanna Finch : Thank you everyone, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I am running off to a meeting, but I am happy to help with any further questions at any time!

12:54:04 From Russell Brannen : Does the extension of certain Scholarship Central applications also change when students will be notified?



12:54:36 From Kaitlyn Venta : Yes - students will be finding out later. Scholarship providers know that can make it harder for students to make a decision, but wanted to make sure students had time to complete applications

12:54:40 From Kaitlyn Venta : they are trying to find the balance

12:55:09 From lharvey : Can you please repeat the Talking Points translation website?

12:55:11 From Russell Brannen : Absolutely, I understand the risk/benefit. It is definitely a delicate balance.

12:55:29 From CeAira Sargent : <https://talkingpts.org/>

12:55:31 From Jamie Pollard : [talkingpts.org](http://talkingpts.org)

12:57:50 From Alan Byrd : Hi Natissia! Can you explain the Bridge to ACT program?

12:58:22 From Margaret Brockmeyer : It's for rising seniors in high school!

12:58:28 From Margaret Brockmeyer : I will copy the application link!

12:58:39 From lharvey : Great! I sent that information out to my juniors this morning.

12:59:24 From Margaret Brockmeyer :  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe96f7OU0\\_JdXspIY6ffl266\\_R7D0K6W5mQjqzde1OJItFkeQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe96f7OU0_JdXspIY6ffl266_R7D0K6W5mQjqzde1OJItFkeQ/viewform)

12:59:36 From Amber Mitchell : Great Information. Thanks Natissia!

12:59:45 From Margaret Brockmeyer : You can also visit our website!  
<http://www.umsl.edu/precollegiate/programs/act.html>

13:00:24 From Ashley June Moore : <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/Testing-Cancelling-Graduation-Requirements.pdf>

13:02:12 From Natissia Small : [www.umsl.edu/SASS](http://www.umsl.edu/SASS) will link you to each department from college access to academic support available

13:03:27 From Felipe : <https://unitedwedream.org/resources-for-the-immigrant-community-during-covid-19/>

13:03:43 From Kaitlyn Venta : Laura - ISPN may have resources for mixed/undocumented families

13:03:55 From teresa : I would encourage reconsidering Decision Day; indecision right now is wise, as students wait to see how things shake out in the coming weeks. If you'd like to hear more, please feel free to email me at [Teresa@sfstl.org](mailto:Teresa@sfstl.org). I can share past Scholarship Foundation blogs on the topic.

13:03:56 From Felipe : Here is a resource: <https://unitedwedream.org/resources-for-the-immigrant-community-during-covid-19/>

13:07:50 From KatieMeyer : Thank you Felipe!

13:08:55 From Jamie Pollard : Calendly.com has worked well for us for individual advising appointments also.

13:09:11 From connielitz : Thank you everybody, great information!

13:09:59 From Briana : Will these notes from this call be recorded somewhere?

13:10:14 From Amber Mitchell : This has been an awesome session. THANK YOU ALL!!!!

13:10:15 From Briana : Oh ok, thank you lol

13:10:15 From Kaitlyn Venta : Yes! I will send them to Laura and she will post and share them!