

Our panelists typed responses to some questions via the Q&A feature, in addition to the ones they addressed live on the call. Please visit _____ to review the transcript of those questions and answers. Comments and suggestions, and questions answered live on the call, are not included on the transcript.

Q: Is there the option to push back the spring semester like Middlebury College is doing in Vt (end of February)

A: Oxy has decided not to change our calendar for spring.

Q: If you can bring classes back, how will you do housing?

A: That's not known right now. We will look at multiple scenarios.

Q: Are students going to be required to get vaccinated? live answered

A: We will be considering all vaccine administration and policy options in the coming months.

Q: This is not COVID related, but time permitting, I'd love to hear about the Liberal Arts College Racial Equity Leadership Alliance.

A: I don't think we'll get to this topic, but here is the full press release on the topic. We'll definitely be keeping people informed! <https://www.oxy.edu/news/occidental-helps-launch-liberal-arts-college-racial-equity-leadership-alliance>

Q: Are you planning to still do orientation activities for this years freshman when you are able to have students return to campus?

A: Yes! This is a high priority.

Q: The fee per unit of \$2,333 is significantly higher than the per unit fee when taking a full 16 units. This is out of step with your peers. Please comment.

A: Our per unit fee is based on 12 units, which is the number of units needed to be considered "full time".

Q: First - sending wishes to you all for safety and health. Second - you allude to potential opportunities for students to be on campus later in the spring. Would this be for living or visits?

A: If the county allows us, we will be ready to have more students living on our residence halls.

Q: Are you considering a prioritization for students, for example prioritizing bringing back seniors and first years?

A: Yes, we are thinking about a prioritization process IF we are allowed to bring students back to campus. Likely seniors and first years.

Q: Can the O groups, the orientation groups, continue more regularly throughout the semester? Given the upcoming virtual months, more opportunities for social interaction or interest groups would be very helpful. As a freshman, my student is feeling extremely isolated.

A: We would love to have the O-Team involved in the spring, and we are assessing their interest to do so.

Q: What is your estimate of how many Oxy students are living close to the campus. Are you asking students to notify you if they are living close to campus.

A: There are about 200 students living off-campus in the neighborhood. Yes, they are required to provide us their address.

Q: Does LA County consider differences in college's ability to safely bring students back? Oxy seems ideally positioned to bring students back, does the county take that into consideration, or is there one set of guidelines for UCLA, USC, and Oxy?

A: There is one set of guidelines for all Los Angeles Colleges. We have certainly pressed, as Marty mentioned, for county to consider the unique abilities of Oxy as a smaller college with resources can be better targeted to our students, but any option they would consider would completely alienate all off campus students, so we did not pursue this further. We can all agree that all of the Los Angeles colleges and universities are struggling with this decision by County.

Q: What about work study, are there jobs for students where they can work remotely?

A: While the opportunities are certainly more limited, campus offices were definitely encouraged to offer remote work opportunities, and those are available. Students can contact HR to learn more.

Q: How does my student who lives off campus register for the testing for spring semester?

A: There will be a communication from my office (Emmons Wellness Center) asking students who are living off campus to sign up for testing. This will be sent out on January 4.

Q: I know that many kids are living near campus in local housing...Is there an effort to somehow connect them to support engagement and helping them expand their social/academic network? (my daughter is a freshman...she will be nearby campus in the spring)

A: Yes, through both testing and programming (when cases go down and we are allowed socially distant programs and services)

Q: Has there been a student survey lately? What are students saying about the stress of all of this, the sense of loss and the diminished value of an Oxy education during the pandemic?

A: We did do a survey in November and found that most students were very satisfied with their academic experience, but struggling with the social isolation. As Rob mentioned, we are developing opportunities for students to connect virtually in more intimate groups which allow for more direct connection. There are also a lot of departments working with student workers on student lead engagement.

Q: Can someone post a link to how to access mental health counseling? Thanks.

A: <https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/resources-support/emmons-wellness-center/mental-health>

Q: Has there been any thought about housing spring sports athletes on campus, if spring sports are allowed to happen? (these students have already lost a season)

A: Right now we are limited to housing only international students and students with housing hardships. We are still discussing and planning for how, when and who would return when case counts go down and county gives us the ok to house additional groups of students.

Q: Our daughter was told by her professor that he was making the class more difficult since “students would have more time and tests would be open book”. How does the administration support this?

A: As a general principle, making classes “more difficult” due to remote operations is inconsistent with guidance provided by the academic administration. However, it is true that untimed open book tests can be more challenging because they require students to apply knowledge rather than relying on recall and memorization.

Q: What’s the best way for our third year student to get an academic advisor?

A: Contact Ed Johnson, the Director of Advising. edmondjohnson@oxy.edu

Q: I know this might be too early, but is there any discussion about expanding educational opportunities over the summer for students (classes or research opportunities)

A: We are discussing a more robust summer program for Summer 2021. Normally students can get academic credit for supervised internships or independent studies during the summer, but we are considering offering more courses during Summer 2021.

Q: What are your plans for supporting seniors looking to enter the job market?

A: The Hameetman Career Center is offering a full complement of opportunities, workshops, and panels. Please visit the HCC’s website!

Q: I write to express my appreciation for faculty who are facing a high learning curve with online teaching. I wonder if the board of trustees is aware of the monumental task of online teaching. Kudos to faculty from parents!!

A: Thank you! The Board of Trustees has issued a commendation for the faculty (and also for the staff!).

Q: To help lower division students get to know faculty have you considered having students or staff do podcast chats with faculty.

A: That’s a good idea!

Q: When is the next survey for students planned?

A: The next survey will happen in the spring. The date for this has not yet been identified.

Q: Who exactly does my freshman notify that she is moving into an off-campus apartment in Eagle Rock? Would it be the REHS office?

A: Yes, REHS.