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To: libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu
Subject: brief update and "return to on-site work" planning
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All,

Apologies we weren't able to put together a virtual hangout this week. It's been a busy week, with many conversations around the "return to on-site work" planning. We have several Library working groups that are preparing parts of what we'll need to submit to the campus, and they'll wrap up their work by tomorrow noon. It may be several weeks before we hear back from campus leadership on our proposed plan, but I believe the work we have underway is solid, well-crafted and will be well-received.

I chaired a very full Council of Deans meeting today, with most of the time devoted to discussions around returning in the fall. The Provost and the Chancellor reiterated their statements about budget planning--much remains uncertain, and it's too soon to know what reductions we'll need to make--but there continues to be good news on enrollments, with increases in Summer enrollment and increases in non-resident and international enrollment for the Fall semester. The state budget is the big unknown, and of course it won't be good. On the other hand, it was good to hear a report from the "return to on-site work" team working on testing and contact tracing: the strategy they've put together and the science they've brought to bear on the problem were encouraging, including the goal of being able to conduct 10,000 tests per day.

I hope everyone is well. I want to continue to encourage you all to pay attention to your needs, physically, mentally and spiritually. This new environment takes its toll on us, with increased stress and a kind of relentlessness that's draining. Be generous to yourselves and the people around you. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone back on campus!

Yours,
John

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