

Question Time

According to communications from VCAA Drummond, “an area of 31.2 square feet per student has been used as the distancing goal” in determining capacity in classrooms for our in-person classes for fall 2020. An email from the VCAA to the deans sent June 26 notes that “this goal does not take into account room geometry, seating type, access/egress, or the desired 10 feet between faculty and students. It is a best approximation for a distancing goal assuming 100% compliance with mask usage.”

- Why did the calculation fail to take into account material matters like room geometry, seating type, access/egress, etc. that diminish the actual capacity of the room to such a degree that in many classrooms the goal of social distancing cannot be achieved, even in cases where the class functions as a hybrid course, with only 50% of enrolled students sitting in the classroom at once?
- Does anyone know how many courses are currently meeting in classrooms that do not allow for social distancing? If so, how many courses are failing to provide social distancing for students and instructors?
- Has anyone communicated to the entire campus and to our surrounding community that Purdue FW is holding in-person classes in which social distancing is not possible in some--or even many--cases?

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