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**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 10:24 AM  
**To:** ROMS no\_reply  
**Subject:** Welcome back, and some info for the new semester

Dear colleagues,

I hope that each of you had a good and restorative summer and that you're feeling as ready as possible for the new semester ahead. As of now, the plan is for classes to start on campus on Wednesday. Please review and keep checking the [Community Standards website](#) for the most updated information.

Let's continue to be patient and flexible with each other and our students during this transition. Some additional [suggested guidelines for navigating](#) the classroom and our shared spaces in Dey Hall are on the Intranet. I would especially recommend adopting course policies that support students' staying home from class if they have [COVID symptoms or a recent exposure](#). And, if you haven't already, please also remember to complete the university's [COVID-19 Vaccination Certification form](#) as soon as possible--no later than September 15. I appreciate your efforts to keep yourself and one another as safe as possible as we transition back to campus. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have a question or could use some help or advice.

In other updates:

- We have very full classes, especially language classes and introductory-level courses, due to increased demand among first-year and sophomore students across the College. I am very grateful to those of you who changed schedule at the last minute or accepted a few extra students into your course to help ROMS respond to this situation. I also want to thank our language directors, Tacia, Valérie, Richard, and Amy, and above all our department manager Shavon and SSM Sheena for their very intense work over the past 2-3 weeks to meet this challenge.
- A few new colleagues will be with us this Fall. One, Teaching Associate Professor Laura Demsey, is joining the French & Francophone Studies Program as coordinator of the FREN 101-102 Master Class. She has a background in French Linguistics and is coming to us from Indiana University at Bloomington. We also have several other instructors joining us on a temporary basis--some familiar faces and some new. We'll have some time to meet these new and returning colleagues at our first faculty meeting [Wednesday, September 22 at 3:30 on Zoom](#) and at a potluck, outdoor social event to be scheduled in September if conditions allow.
- Finally, [administrative and committee assignments](#) for the 2021-2022 academic year are now posted on the Intranet. Please let me know if you notice any errors or oversights (there are bound to be a few). I'll be contacting committee chairs individually over the next couple of weeks.

Wishing everyone a safe and successful semester, and looking forward to seeing you soon,  
Ellen