TO: Lehman College Faculty

FROM: Peter O. Nwosu, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success

SUBJECT: Information Technology Updates for Faculty

DATE: August 20, 2020

Dear Faculty,

I am pleased to update you on a variety of tech-related issues as we approach the beginning of the semester:

1. Academic Affairs Computer Refresh: You may recall that the President and I allocated funds last semester to purchase approximately 129 laptops and desktop computers for faculty as proposed by each Dean. The intent of this initiative was to accelerate the refresh of computers within Academic Affairs, and during the spring semester, each school developed a listing of priority needs with an eye towards replacing older computers and advancing our teaching, learning, and research mission.

   I am pleased to advise you that despite higher costs, supply-chain and shipping delays due to high demand, the computers have arrived on campus and are being readied by IT for pick-up by designated faculty members. I want to extend my appreciation to the IT division and the procurement office, which partnered with us in this initiative.

2. CUNY-wide Zoom Agreement: I am pleased to inform you that we expect Zoom licenses to be available around the beginning of the semester. The CUNY-wide license will cover all CUNY students, faculty and staff. Some of the many key features include: 1) unlimited meeting duration; 2) up to 300 participants per meeting; 3) no-cost VOIP and international toll numbers; 4) polls; 5) screen sharing; and, 6) 24/7 technical support. We will use our CUNYfirst login to access Zoom when it is available. Later in the semester, Blackboard will be enabled with a Zoom connector (or learning tools interoperability/LTI). As such, all meetings can be managed from a central area in Blackboard, enabling instructors to schedule new meetings and allowing students can join from a single link.

3. New CUNY IT Service Portal: CUNY is piloting a new knowledge base that can be used by students, faculty and staff to obtain useful information about a wide range of technology issues. Please feel free to share this link with your students: https://cunyithelp.cuny.edu/

4. Lehman 360: Lehman 360 continues to grow, and I encourage you to use it as a resource and share it, especially with students that are new to Lehman: lehman360.lehman.edu/

Best wishes and stay safe.