

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: Covid-19 and UMass
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 5:36:27 PM

Dear Paul Bockelman,

We are writing to thank you most sincerely for your communications with the Chancellor of UMass regarding the impending influx of students during this pandemic.

We are relieved that to the point, the COVID-19 numbers are as low as they are and are seriously concerned knowing firsthand how students living in rentals in our Grantwood neighborhood during healthy times have flaunted the public health norms of a family neighborhood.

It is incumbent of the university to take the same approach that Tulane University will be following to prevent a potentially dangerous environment for all residents in the town, police and firefighters and other first responders.

These are unprecedented times and your level headed approach as town manager is enormously appreciated.

Sincerely,
Pearl-Anne and Nathan Margalit

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Mills, Angela](#)
Date: Fwd: Please submit evaluation statements of Town Manager by July 15, 2020
Friday, July 17, 2020 6:03:13 PM
Attachments: [image006.wmz](#)
[image005.png](#)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 5:19:11 PM
To: Griesemer, Lynn <GriesemerL@amherstma.gov>
Subject: RE: Please submit evaluation statements of Town Manager by July 15, 2020

Hi Lynn,

I know I wrote you that I have no basis on which to evaluate the town manager. I still don't pertinent to FYU 20, but I want to put in a good word regarding his statement in the Gazette and to the town this week. I am dismayed that UMass did not consult with the town before developing its plan. We are at a critical phase regarding all of our health and safety.

I hope that the Council will adopt some regulations with teeth that will attempt to do as much as possible to keep us safe, particularly where the behavior of off-campus students are concerned. The town manager had some good suggestions.

Myra

From: Griesemer, Lynn <GriesemerL@amherstma.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Griesemer, Lynn <GriesemerL@amherstma.gov>
Cc: Town Council Members <towncouncil@amherstma.gov>; Mills, Angela <millsa@amherstma.gov>
Subject: Please submit evaluation statements of Town Manager by July 15, 2020



Amherst
Town
Council
(413)
350

**TOWN COUNCIL INVITES COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND
MEMBERS TO COMMENT DURING THE TOWN
MANAGER'S ANNUAL EVALUATION**

[VIDEO MESSAGE FROM LYNN GRIESEMER, TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT](#)

July 6, 2020

Dear Chair and Committee/Board/Commission Members:

The Town Council is beginning its annual evaluation of the Town Manager. We specifically invite all members of the Town committees, boards, and commissions to submit written comments by **4:00 pm Wednesday, July 15, 2020**. We ask your assistance by encouraging every member of your committee, board or commission, to send us your

reflections. If you require assistance, please contact your staff liaison or the Town Council President, Lynn Griesemer at griesemerl@amherstma.gov.

Every Town Council member and the Town Manager will read your submission and your response will become part of the Town Manager's personnel file.

The Town Council's broad performance goals for the Town Manager is available at: www.amherstma.gov/towncouncil.

Submissions may be e-mailed to towncouncil@amherstma.gov (preferred), or sent to:

TOWN MANAGER EVALUATION
Attn: Lynn Griesemer, President
Amherst Town Council
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Town Council Office: 413-259-3001, or towncouncil@amherstma.gov.

Thank you for your participation and assistance. We look forward to hearing from your members.

Sincerely,
Amherst Town Council

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: Thank you!
Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020 9:13:32 AM

Dear Mr. Bockelman,

Thank you for your efforts to communicate with UMass concerning their dangerous decisions to welcome students in the fall. I live in Aspen Chase apartments and we already have folks from Georgia and Missouri who have moved in. We are merely at the beginning of the influx of students from all over the country.

UMass has made a business decision with no regard for the health and lives of the people of Amherst and I thank you for acting on our behalf.

Best,
Becky Lockwood

From: [Bockelman, Paul](#)
To: [REDACTED] [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: RE: Thank you!
Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020 3:34:24 PM

Thank you for writing. I appreciate your comments.

Paul

Paul Bockelman
Town Manager
Town of Amherst
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002
413-259-3002

TownManager@amherstma.gov
www.amherstma.gov
[Open Government to the MAX!](#)

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From: Becky Sheridan [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Town Manager's Office <townmanager@amherstma.gov>
Subject: Thank you!

Dear Mr. Bockelman,

Thank you for your efforts to communicate with UMass concerning their dangerous decisions to welcome students in the fall. I live in Aspen Chase apartments and we already have folks from Georgia and Missouri who have moved in. We are merely at the beginning of the influx of students from all over the country.

UMass has made a business decision with no regard for the health and lives of the people of Amherst and I thank you for acting on our behalf.

Best,
Becky Lockwood

From: [Bockelman, Paul](#)
To: [REDACTED] [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: RE: Thank you!
Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020 3:35:51 PM

Thank you for your email. It's important to hear from all sectors, especially our small business owners in the Valley.

Stay safe,

Paul

Paul Bockelman
Town Manager
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From: Pam Victor [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 7:28 PM
To: Town Manager's Office <townmanager@amherstma.gov>
Subject: Thank you!

Paul,

Thank you for advocating for the health of Amherst's residents. I'm *very very* worried about what our lives will be like when the students come back. I'm sure you have seen the scene outside the current student off-campus housing this summer where they're congregating together outside playing beer pong. If the past is any indication, it's unreasonable to assume that UMass students will engage in responsible behavior once they're back on campus. The Hubbard Hoedown is going to be nothing compared to the deadly impact they'll have on our town this fall and winter.

As a small business owner, I am not able to plan for a reopening this fall, as we had hoped, because I have to assume we'll be back in deep quarantine again after the tens of thousands of students descend on the region from all over the country. I realize that there are numerous economic implications if our local colleges and UMass flounder; however, *my* business will remain closed longer if the students cause a dangerous rise in Covid cases. As we're a theater and school, who knows

how long it will take to recover from the all-but-assured disastrous rise in cases this fall, so we can reopen? All I know is that will be much longer than it would be if all those students didn't return.

Thank you once again for fighting for our health and small businesses.

With gratitude,

Pam

Pam Victor

Head of Happiness

Pronouns: she/her/hers



www.happiervalley.com

Happier Valley Comedy Theater

1 Mill Valley Rd., Hadley, MA

Let's Make the Happy Valley HAPPIER!

[Check Out My TEDx Talk "Meet Your Inner Critic \(and Tell It to Pipe Down\)"](#)

From: [Bockelman, Paul](#)
To: [REDACTED] [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: RE: Thank you!!!!
Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020 3:39:51 PM

Thank you for your email. I do anticipate meeting with the University in the coming days.

Paul

Paul Bockelman
Town Manager
Town of Amherst
4 Boltwood Avenue
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From: Carrie West [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Town Manager's Office <townmanager@amherstma.gov>
Subject: Thank you!!!!

Dear Amherst Town Manager,

I appreciate that you heard a lot of people who are concerned about the students coming to campus in the fall. I also appreciate that you sent a letter to the Chancellor and outlined what you wanted him to do. Very good.

Have you heard back from him yet? Will he honor your requests?

Thank you,

Carrie West

She/her pronouns – if you don't know about pronouns, just ask me!

From: [Bockelman, Paul](#)
To: [REDACTED] [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: RE: Letter to UMass
Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020 4:12:31 PM

Thank you, Mr. Erickson, for taking the time to write. I have not really utilized the epistemological studies I did at Hampshire College in quite a long time, so I'm glad you put this viral hazard in context.

Much appreciated.

Paul

Paul Bockelman
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Town of Amherst
4 Boltwood Avenue
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413-259-3002

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From: David Erickson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Town Manager's Office <townmanager@amherstma.gov>
Subject: Letter to UMass

Thank you for doing this. Here on the other side of the river we're waiting and watching to see what Smith's final decision will be. The Smith plan is a better one than the UMass plan, if only in the rigor of its plans to test students regularly. And, of course, Smith has a much smaller student population. But, as I have written in a series of exchanges with Sam Masiter at Smith, even the most careful plans will not prevent students from moving among the local population, and when it finally results in a spike in infections, the downside for both schools will

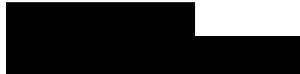
be enormous. Thinking about this situation as a series of trade-offs is, anyway, the wrong way to think about a pandemic. Losing your job is awful; losing your life is final. What should matter most is the Precautionary Principle (courtesy of Mr. Wiki):

The **precautionary principle** (or **precautionary approach**) is a broad [epistemological](#), philosophical and legal approach to innovations with potential for causing harm when extensive scientific knowledge on the matter is lacking. It emphasizes caution, pausing and review before leaping into new innovations that may prove disastrous.^[1] Critics argue that it is vague, self-cancelling, [unscientific](#) and an obstacle to progress.^[2]

The principle is often used by policy makers in situations where there is the possibility of harm from making a certain decision (e.g. taking a particular course of action) and conclusive evidence is not yet available. For example, a government may decide to limit or restrict the widespread release of a medicine or new technology until it has been thoroughly tested. The principle acknowledges that while the progress of science and technology has often brought great benefit to humanity, it has also contributed to the creation of new threats and risks. It implies that there is a [social responsibility](#) to protect the public from exposure to such harm, when scientific investigation has found a plausible risk. These protections should be relaxed only if further scientific findings emerge that provide sound evidence that no harm will result.

Thanks for reading; and thanks for looking out for all of us in the Pioneer Valley.

David Erickson



From: [Bockelman, Paul](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: RE: Thank you!
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2020 9:22:34 AM

Thank you, Ms. Hollingworth, for taking the time to write and let me know your thoughts.

We will be discussing our concerns with the University soon.

Take care,

Paul

Paul Bockelman
Town Manager
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4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002
413-259-3002

TownManager@amherstma.gov
www.amherstma.gov
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From: Ann Hollingworth [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Town Manager's Office <townmanager@amherstma.gov>
Subject: Thank you!

Dear Mr. Bockelman,

Thank you so much for writing your letter to the UMass chancellor about opening the university. I have been so proud of the Town (and residents) of Amherst, for all you have done to keep us safe. UMass was a little late in shutting down, but it did. Amherst has done better than many towns, especially given our size.

But having students return from all over the world will endanger us. I hope the petition going around will help.

Thanks again,

Ann

Ann Staman Hollingworth
[REDACTED]

Amherst



ManyRoadsToReading.com
teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Many-Roads-To-Reading

From: [Bockelman, Paul](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [Town Manager's Office](#)
Subject: RE: College students return
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2020 9:24:12 AM
Attachments: [UMass Concerns COVID-19 FINAL 07-10-2020.pdf](#)

Thanks for your comments. We will continue to work on your behalf.

Paul

Paul Bockelman
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-----Original Message-----

From: Rebecca [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Town Manager's Office <townmanager@amherstma.gov>
Subject: College students return

I fully support your letter to UMASS chancellor and other decision makers regarding inviting students to return to our small town. You point out the dangers to residents of all ages with such an ill defined plan. I consider our lives are in danger and we have no control over this phenomenon. Is their main concern to justify the billions spent on huge buildings that are minimally used? The strange addition to the Business School and many, many more are dictated by some donor's self importance. We are the year round residents who pay the high taxes that allow the institution to be tax free. Keep up your advocacy to protect us.

Rebecca Storey
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone