

**BREAK,
CONTINUED**

Student life

In the spring, around 900 students stayed on campus even after many students were urged to move back home. If classes go all online after Thanksgiving Break, residence halls will remain open, Damphousse said. Not every student has the same access to the internet and some classes, like science labs or certain nursing and health profession classes, might even stay operating in an in-person manner.

Food services, the convenience store, the bookstore, the library, the health center and residence halls would all stay open even if classes went all online after Thanksgiving Break.

State regulations could also impact closures around campus.

"The Red Wolf Center is a little unusual in all this because it's a workout facility," Smith said. "The state has rules on workout facilities. Say we were in a situation where the state said close workout facilities, which we did in the spring."

Faculty preparations

While the transition to online class in the spring came quickly to faculty, throughout

the fall semester, A-State faculty have been preparing to make the transition in case it is needed after Thanksgiving.

Associate Professor of History Justin Castro teaches three different courses.

"Each one is unique and would be done a little differently, but all would involve Zoom, Blackboard and email," Castro said. "One of them would involve Google Docs."

Pay and student workers

When it comes to pay, salaried employees will still be paid the same if the switch to all online classes happens after Thanksgiving Break. Part time employees, like student workers, could be affected if the switch to all online classes happens.

"The exception (in the spring) was part time employees," Damphousse said. "Student workers for example were negatively impacted because they didn't have a job to do and we couldn't continue paying them because they weren't working. So full time employees weren't impacted but it did impact student workers."

If the transition to



Photo by: Hannah Risker | Photo Editor

In an Oct. 12 email, Chancellor Damphousse announced the intent to return to campus after Thanksgiving Break.

online classes happens after Thanksgiving Break, the student worker's pay really depends where they have a job.

Students who work in the library, cafeteria and other places that stay open, like residence halls, will still get paid.

"But if they work as a work-study student in an office that's shut down then they probably wouldn't be able to keep their employment," Damphousse said. "That's what happened this spring. Student workers and part time workers who were not able to work on campus were not employed during that period."

Dealing with COVID-19

after one full semester

While some universities decided back toward the end of the spring semester not to have in-person classes after Thanksgiving Break, A-State held off on that decision.

"We made our decision based on what we know about our students and our faculty and staff," Damphousse said. "We created a plan to come back to campus and it was really autonomous. It was autonomous from any other university. I'm glad we didn't make that (early) decision. Things are going better than we thought they might be going at this point."

Although A-State is part of a system, another university's decision in the system to go all online would not affect any A-State decision, Damphousse said.

To get to this point where A-State has a real chance of making it through the whole semester without a shutdown, Damphousse applauded the resiliency and adaptability of students, faculty and staff.

A-State has come a long way since those early coronavirus days. Initially worried about the safety of teaching face-to-face, 14 non-traditional teaching spaces were turned into classrooms. A gym in the HPESS and rooms in the First National Bank Arena, along with other areas, hold classes to allow for a safe social distance between students.

A-State started building its plan for returning in April before publishing it in June. When the plan first came out, it read very theoretical and until the fall semester got in full swing, there were many questions in the air about how these things were going to work.

Now, two months into the semester, Damphousse said

A-State has found a homeostasis.

"It all was very hypothetical until we actually got into it," Damphousse said. "In some ways we did a lot of advanced planning but we knew we wouldn't understand how it would work until we started doing it. The first couple of weeks we all learned, 'This worked but this doesn't work.'"

Damphousse said most students adhere to the mask guidelines very well, along with faculty and staff.

The chancellor emphasized A-State faced challenges before and it will again in the future. Arkansas State is showing what it is made of and the creativity, tenacity and compassion of every Red Wolf shows during this trying time.

"(I want people to know) how proud I am of the students, faculty and staff for making that plan, which was built in the hypothetical to create a semester no one has ever experienced before," Damphousse said. "People were gracious the first couple of weeks to understand that things wouldn't work perfectly. We got through the first couple of weeks and now we seem to be making it happen."

**SNOW DAYS,
CONTINUED**

Different professors have different syllabi with varied policies when it comes to attendance, and it is expected that will impact their approach to future class cancellations.

"Tell me the difference between a professor who says you have to be in class on Nov. 15, and if we are out on Nov. 15, I want you to have that same content," Smith said. "Every

faculty member is allowed to construct their course in the way they wish to. Some have excused absences, some have no absences at all; what it comes back to is what is in your syllabus."

It sounds like nothing will change in the way that the university will announce and approach class cancellations, as the school already makes sure to point out that it is not

the university itself closing, but just the classes on campus.

"There's really no such thing as universities closing," Smith said. "We are careful to just say on-campus classes are cancelled. But that doesn't mean the library isn't open. It doesn't mean the Red Wolf Center might not be open and certainly dining services will be open. And in those cases, online classes

continue. Your only limiters are if there is power and connectivity."

Provost policy

Smith referred to the provost policy regarding inclement weather and how it affects students travelling to campus should classes not be cancelled due to weather.

The policy says, "The Provost reminds students when the

decision is made to not travel to campus under this policy, it is the responsibility of the student to immediately contact each professor upon return to explain the circumstances and to determine the need to complete any missed assignments."

The standard should remain the same, which would protect students from any penalties a professor might apply should

attendance policies be enforced to Zoom classes by professors.

"If the student feels like they cannot make it to class, the policy has been to reach out to your professor and work it out with them," Smith said. "I would make an assumption that the same would apply in that type of circumstance."

Soccer clinches No. 1 seed in SBC tournament before losing for first time all season

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The Arkansas State soccer team lost for the first time this season, 2-1 to in-state foe Central Arkansas in an end-to-end game Sunday afternoon, after going eight games unbeaten.

The Red Wolves, 7-1-1 overall and 6-0-1 in the Sun Belt Conference, fell in overtime after Haley Husted conceded a penalty kick by fouling UCA's Laurel Landry just barely inside the box in the 93rd minute of the match.

UCA's Emma Hawkins stepped up to the spot and completed her brace with a powerfully taken penalty to Megan McClure's right as the golden goal ended A-State's undefeated season.

"You're disappointed with the result, you get that, but you don't want to create a scenario where you have kids feeling that maybe their performance was the reason why," A-State head coach Brian Dooley said. "We win as a team and lose as a team. I think we took our foot off the gas. We had opportunities to break the game open a bit and we got a little sloppy in certain areas that cost us."

Dooley said there could be a very important lesson that comes from A-State's loss to UCA: training affects your results.

A-State has played three overtime games in a row and the Red Wolves won the first match 1-0, tied the second game 0-0 and lost to UCA 2-1. The results possibly show a downward trend while approaching the conference tournament and the team has to address those things, Dooley said.

"When your preparation maybe isn't as tight and your training habits aren't quite where they need to be to maintain the standard we expect, a team can come in and get a victory over you," Dooley said. "Hopefully that will allow us to bring our level of training up a little bit and keep the intensity, keep the fun, keep the energy in training because that's what you bring in a game."

A-State led most of the match, but Hawkins equalized for the Bears in the 87th minute after a great piece of play to get past A-State's Lauren Shah at right back, then cut in on her right foot and curled a beautiful finish past Noel Miller in the Red Wolves' goal.

"I think (UCA) had some good pace up top," Dooley said.

"I thought we did a good job overall in limiting them. Maybe our gaps in the midfield were a little bit bigger than they needed to be which allowed them to find a little bit of rhythm here and there. I wouldn't blame any one position for the goals."

Being senior day and a non conference game, Dooley rotated his squad more throughout the match.

Miller, a sophomore goalkeeper, played the entire second half instead of Megan McClure, while other Red Wolves came in and out of the game with frequency.

A-State's pretty consistent lineup from throughout the season was changed heavily throughout the game and Dooley pointed out this might be something the coaching staff needs to evaluate for future matches.

"It was kind of a unique and different game," Dooley said. "Being senior recognition day, we started all our seniors, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it's different than what we've been doing so it kind of created a little bit of a different rhythm to our substitution pattern. It created a lot of differences in the game that we haven't done to this point."



Photo by: Morgan Blankenship | Staff Photographer

Darby Stotts plays a ball in A-State's 2-1 loss to UCA. The loss was A-State's first loss of the season.

One bright spot in the match for A-State was Maggie Ertl. On senior day, the senior from Oklahoma scored the Red Wolves' lone goal in the match and looked very comfortable in her hold up play and distribution.

"I thought Maggie brought us a nice little energy," Dooley said. "That's kind of the performance that Maggie's given us in the past. She's throwing her body around, she's creating opportunities, the hold up play is pretty good. I think she showed that she can come on and make a difference for us. It was certainly her best performance of the year for us."

Ertl's goal came in the 14th minute in a goalmouth scramble. Sarah Sodoma whipped in an

in-swinging corner kick that bounced around in and out of the box before being sent in again. In a mass of purple and white jerseys, Ertl found the ball at her feet and slid a calm finish in between Reagan McCombs' legs in UCA's goal.

"I kind of blacked out and Olivia (Smith) said she did too," Ertl said. "Basically Olivia got it out of her feet, turned shot it, hit somebody, turned shot it, hit the goalie and it was about to get cleared out and it just popped out perfectly to me and I shot it and I megged the goalie. It was just a great finish to that."

Ertl said after the match Julianna Coates was one of the first players off the field telling the team to keep its head up

as part of that strong group of seniors leading the team forward.

"Going into our next conference game, I think it was almost just a good thing to get some fire under our butts a little bit," Ertl said.

A-State has already clinched a No.1 seed in the SBC tournament after winning the Western Division title with a draw against Little Rock Oct. 15.

The Red Wolves host Louisiana Sunday to close out the regular season.

Kick off from Jonesboro is set for noon.

For the complete version of this story, head to *The Herald's* website where the article was originally published Oct. 18.