

# Scenario Planning

For Fall 2020

University of Rhode Island



# Planning Goal

**Determine *how* to proceed safely with fall 2020 semester** and to what degree, or not, to reopen the campus and face-to-face programs, services, and activities



Timeframe: To have an answer for parents, students, and faculty/staff about fall no later than, and preferably prior, to **July 1**

# Overriding University-wide Goal:



To protect the health and vitality of the URI community, sustain the financial viability of the institution, and ensure academic progress of our students, while maintaining the University workforce at or near full capacity, if possible, under all scenarios.

# Academic Premises will guide the work of scenario development

(5 articulated premises, reference longer process outline  
document)

## Challenge: Planning in Time of Maximum Uncertainty



# DRIVERS

## **The internal driver -**

Delivering the academic core mission safely and responsibly

**The external drivers -** regulatory forces, such as CDC recommendations, state/federal regulations, executive orders, reopen plan, safe social distancing/restricted gatherings

State of RI Higher Ed Fall 2020 Reopening Plan requires mitigation, e.g., social distancing, student and employee screening, contact tracing, testing, limited group sizes, masks, and strict cleaning regimens ([COVID19 RI Guidelines for College and Universities, May 5, 2020](#))

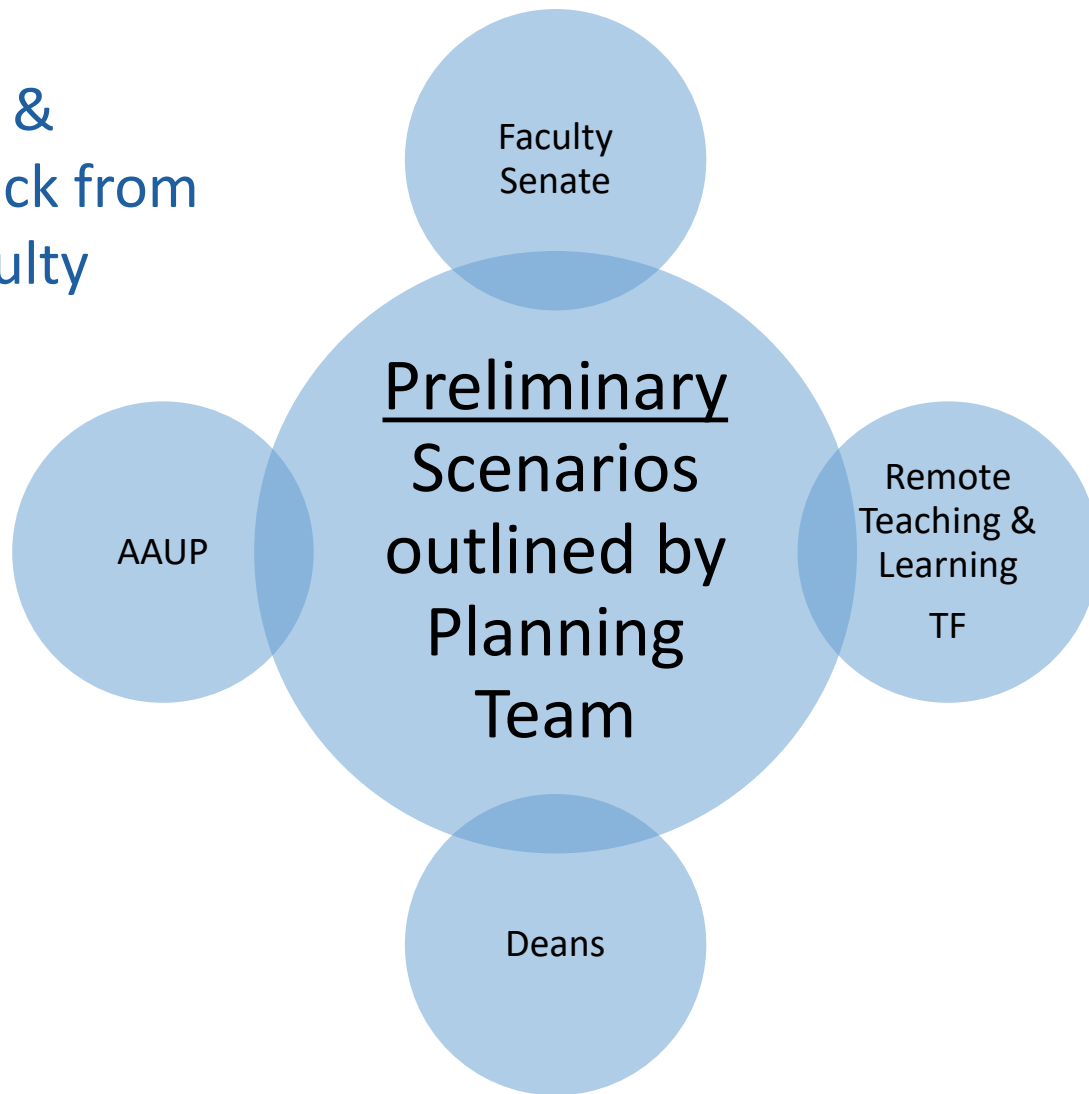


# Scenario Planning Team

- Build out preliminary core scenarios
- Vet outlined scenarios with key faculty groups, provide refinements from an academic perspective, make revisions, add details or new ideas
  - *Remote Teaching and Learning Task Force*
  - **Key faculty groups** (*Fac Sen Ex Comm, AAUP Ex Comm, etc.*) ...
  - **Deans**
- Articulate implications, potential negative and positive impacts, & special considerations for each scenario and in regard to different populations
- Report to the **URI Senior Team** for their analysis and decisions

# Preliminary Scenario Development Process

Vetting &  
Feedback from  
key faculty  
groups

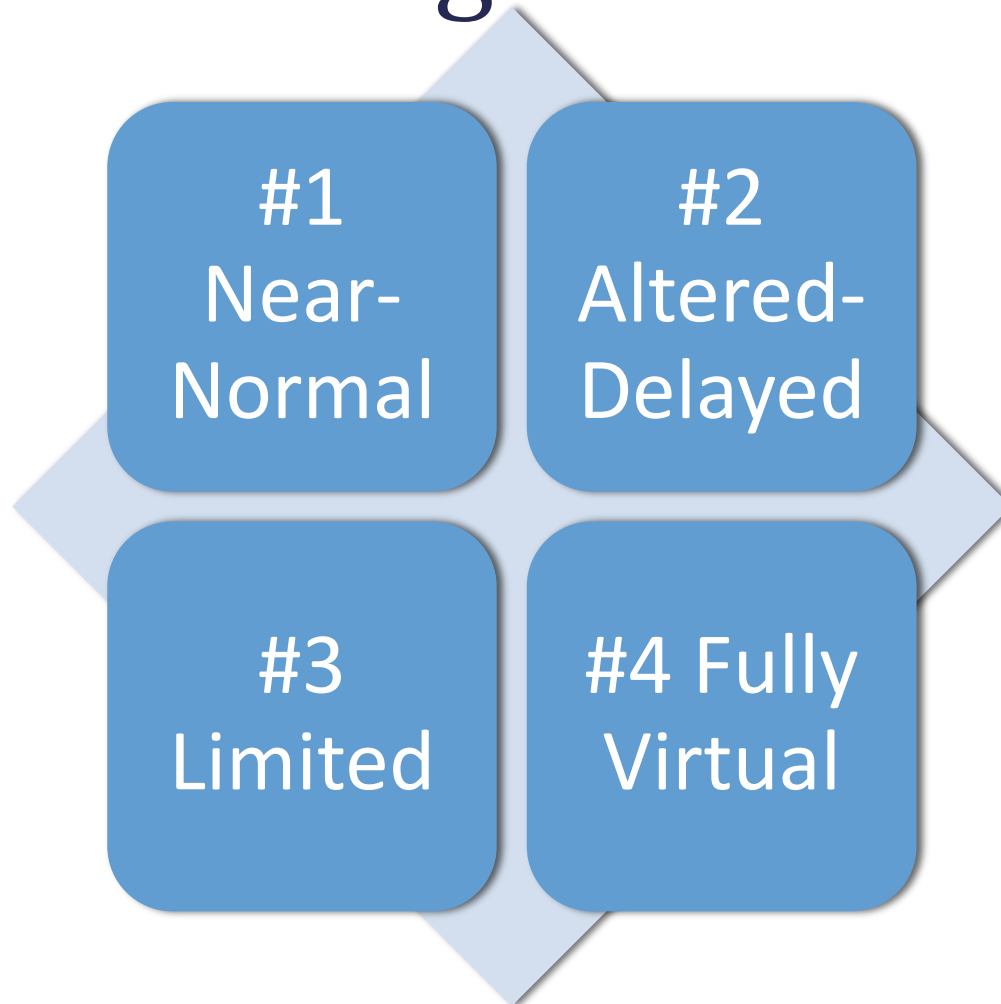


# Underlying Principles to ALL Scenarios

- Scenarios serve as a framework for University-wide planning
- A “new reality” is an opportunity for innovation, reinvention, and differentiation in the marketplace
- Strive for and ensure equity for all groups
- Investment in faculty and staff development is key
- Attention to health of faculty and staff as well as students
- Multiple constructs within a given scenario framework
- All funding sources to be leveraged to ensure success
- Student orientation to online learning will be important
- An all virtual scenario may mean fewer courses for students
- May require dramatic shifts in structures (creativity needed!)
- Timing for decisions and communications will be important



# Current Update: Preliminary Working Scenarios



We are near-fully delivering in-person instruction & research, housing and dining, and many co-curricular activities with careful attention to social distancing and limitations to large gatherings, such as in-person concerts, events, and activities. Testing likely needed.

## **#1 – NEAR-NORMAL SCENARIO –**

Semester starts with virtual educational delivery and face to face is delayed. The academic calendar may have to be altered in terms of timing or consideration of modular educational delivery or the use of compressed time frames. While perhaps challenging, this may be worth considering if a few weeks or a month of time could make a difference and might also involve the creative use of J-term.

## **#2 – ALTERED/DELAYED SCENARIO –**

Face-to-face is allowable on a limited basis for selected learning activities, such as experiential learning, selected lab courses, student research, studio classes, hands-on capstone design classes, the arts, and perhaps some inherently low enrollment, advanced graduate classes. Faculty and graduate student research re-opens with aggressive enforcement of social distancing. This model would presumably allow for some limited residential capacity.

### **#3 -- LIMITED SCENARIO –**

Only online/remote learning classes, hopefully specifically designed and developed to include a special student orientation to online learning, communication plans to promote programs, virtual advising, tutoring, career and counseling support efforts, and very limited campus activity. Likely, limited on campus research and no or very highly limited residential capacity.

## **#4 - FULLY VIRTUAL SCENARIO -**

Board decision  
scenario to enact

Preliminary  
Scenario  
Building

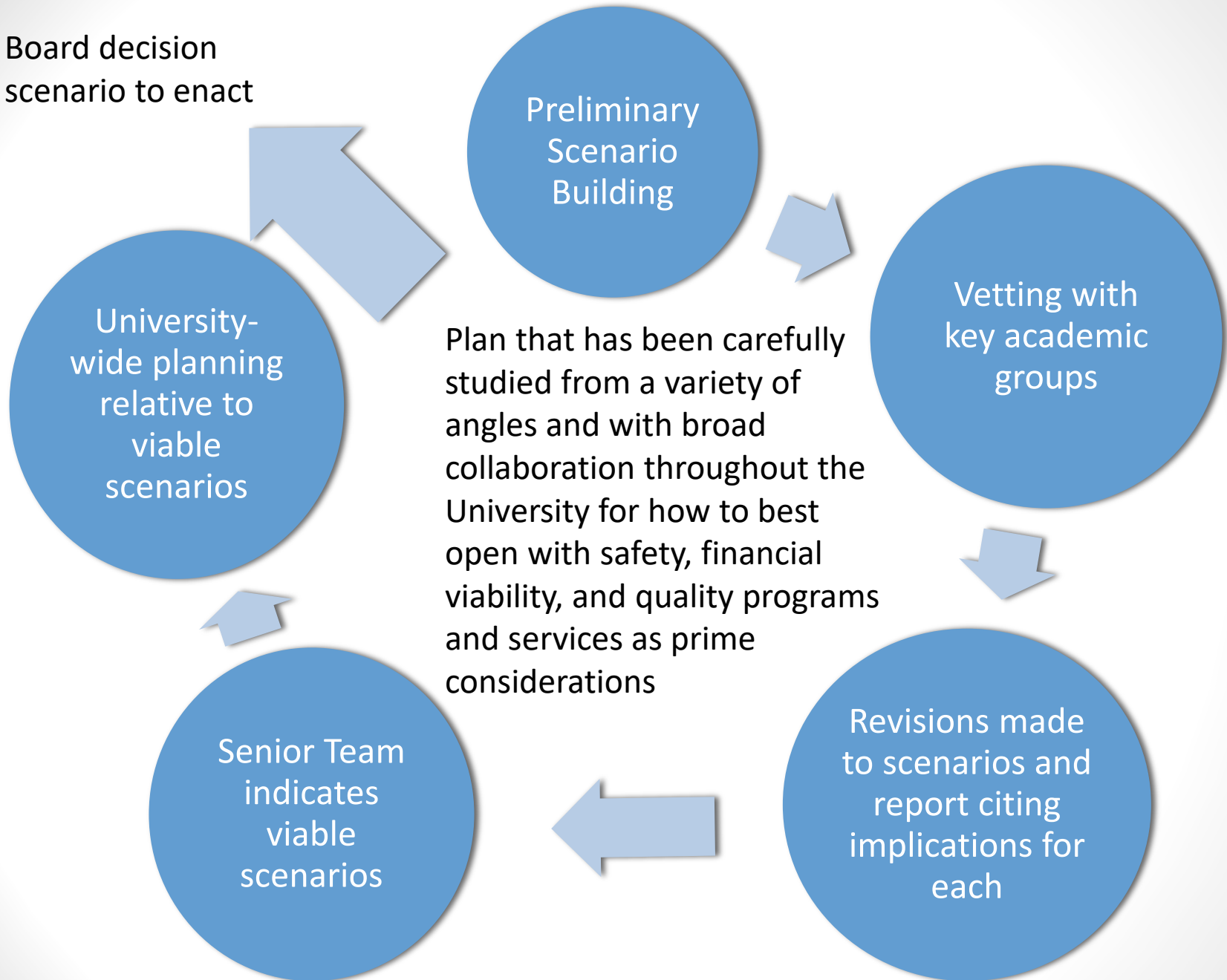
Vetting with  
key academic  
groups

Revisions made  
to scenarios and  
report citing  
implications for  
each

Senior Team  
indicates  
viable  
scenarios

University-  
wide planning  
relative to  
viable  
scenarios

Plan that has been carefully  
studied from a variety of  
angles and with broad  
collaboration throughout the  
University for how to best  
open with safety, financial  
viability, and quality programs  
and services as prime  
considerations



# The End Goal

A newly reinvigorated institution, having taken the best possible advantage of the opportunity to adapt, change, and emerge a stronger better University

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND

THINK BIG  WE DO<sup>SM</sup>



# Preliminary Scenario Planning Team

- *Chair, Provost Office – Don DeHayes*
  - *Community, Equity, Diversity – Mary Grace Almandrez*
  - *Enrollment Management – Dean Libutti*
  - *Senate Vice Chair & Remote Learning Task Force - Megan Echevarria*
  - *Curriculum & Standards Committee, Chair– Audrey Cardany*
  - *Faculty Initiatives & Chair, Remote Learning Task Force – Anne Veeger*
  - *Jay Walsh – Exec Director, AAUP*
  - *Health Expertise – Ellen Reynolds*
  - *Risk Management – Cynthia Stanton*
  - *Communications/External Relations – Kelly Mahoney*
  - *Deans Council – Jen Riley*
  - *ATL - Online/Remote Learning – Diane Goldsmith*
- Facilitator – Ann Morrissey*



