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A Proposal to Implement Zoom Link Uniformity and a Two-Minute Grace Period

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A Proposal to Implement Zoom Link Uniformity and a Two-Minute Grace Period

Keeping Zoom Links Organized on Blackboard and Preventing Misrepresentative Absences Occurring in the First Two Minutes of Online Classes

March 2021



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I. Purpose

We, the United Student Government at Rose Hill, would like to recognize that online learning comes with its unique set of challenges and obstacles that would normally not be encountered in a physical setting. Despite these challenges, the online setting currently serves as the primary mode of learning on the Rose Hill campus, and therefore this mode of learning must strive to be welcoming and accommodating to all students in their pursuit of knowledge and careers.

The online setting's unique set of challenges encompasses a wide array of potential hindrances to academic life. Technical difficulties such as poor online connectivity, computer/technology issues, and disorganization of zoom links—even potential faulty zoom links—all contribute to a more susceptible decline in the academic experience at Rose Hill. Any combination of these issues or individual issues are new and unique to academic life and therefore must be addressed.

In addition, we understand that more issues can arise out of these initial common issues. One issue occurring as a result of these technical and organizational issues is the potential for a misrepresentation of student absences. The potential for faulty marked absences is believed to be occurring at a higher rate than a faulty absence occurring in an in-person setting. Technical issues have been known to delay students from logging into class on time. These problems commonly result in student distress and frustration of the online learning experience as these students are marked late due to an initial technical issue.

To remedy these common technical issues and subsequent issues of disorganization and falsely marked absences, we find that issuing a statement urging professors to keep their zoom links organized on Blackboard and to refrain from marking absences in the first two minutes of online class—for any present or future online class—would greatly improve the academic experience of Rose Hill students.

We must acknowledge that the University declared to resume all in-person instruction classes and activities in the 2021 Fall semester—but in the pursuit of prioritizing the health and safety of the student body—we must also recognize the possibility of a mandatory transition to online learning in the coming semesters. To accommodate academic life at Rose Hill effectively, we must be ready as a university to transition modes of learning if necessary at a moment's notice.

We, the United Student Government at Rose Hill, believe that the quality of the academic student experience at Rose Hill would be greatly improved and offered more stability by urging professors to keep their zoom links organized on Blackboard and to refrain from marking absences in the first two minutes of online

class. We urge all professors—including those who do not utilize Blackboard—to place their Zoom link(s) on their respective Blackboard pages regardless.

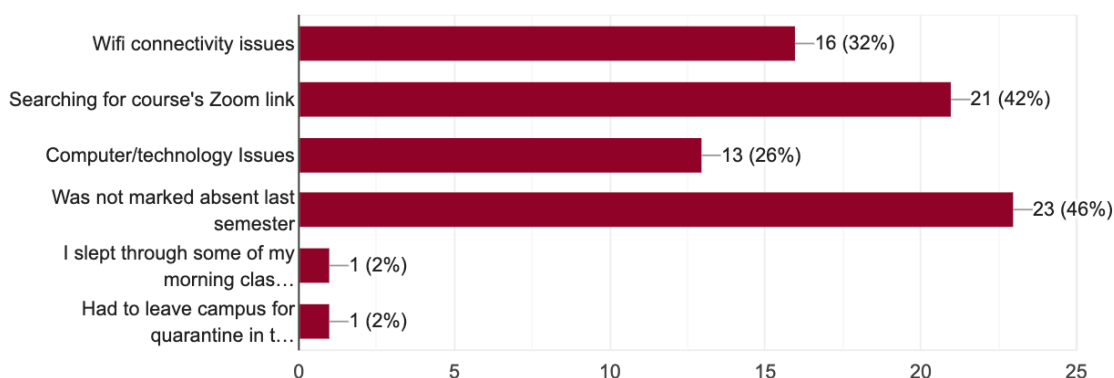
II. Survey Data

We have conducted two distinct surveys—one sponsored directly by the United Student Government at Rose Hill—and the other through Fordham College at Rose Hill Dean's Council. Of these two surveys, there are five charts worth examining that lead us to an understanding that issuing Zoom link uniformity and a two-minute grace period would greatly benefit the students at Rose Hill.

The first chart is a bar graph from the USG survey. The question, "During the Fall 2020 semester, were you marked absent/late to your Zoom class for one or more of the following reasons?" generated four main pre-written responses: wifi connectivity issues; searching for course's Zoom link; computer/technology issues; and was not marked absent last semester. Of these options, students were able to indicate one or more of these issues. While 23 students indicated that they experienced no absence issues, we had a combined total of 50 students indicate that they either experienced connectivity issues, Zoom link disorganization issues, computer/technology issues, or a combination of these three.

During the Fall 2020 semester, were you marked absent/late to your Zoom class for one or more of the following reasons?

50 responses

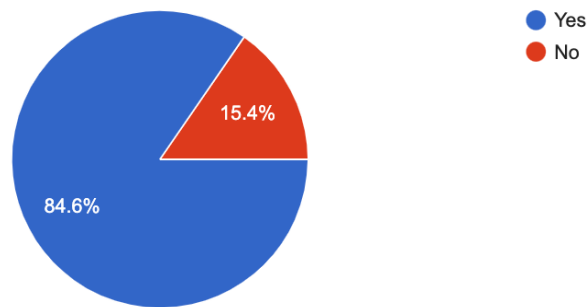


Another question on the USG sponsored survey: "If you were marked late/absent last semester, would a two-minute grace period (cannot get marked absent until two minutes after class begins) have helped?" was an optional question

in the survey that generated 39 responses. Of these 39 responses, approximately 85% indicated that a two-minute grace period would have helped their absence issues, while about 15% indicated that it would not have helped.

If you were marked late/absent last semester, would a two-minute grace period (cannot get marked absent until two minutes after class begins) have helped?

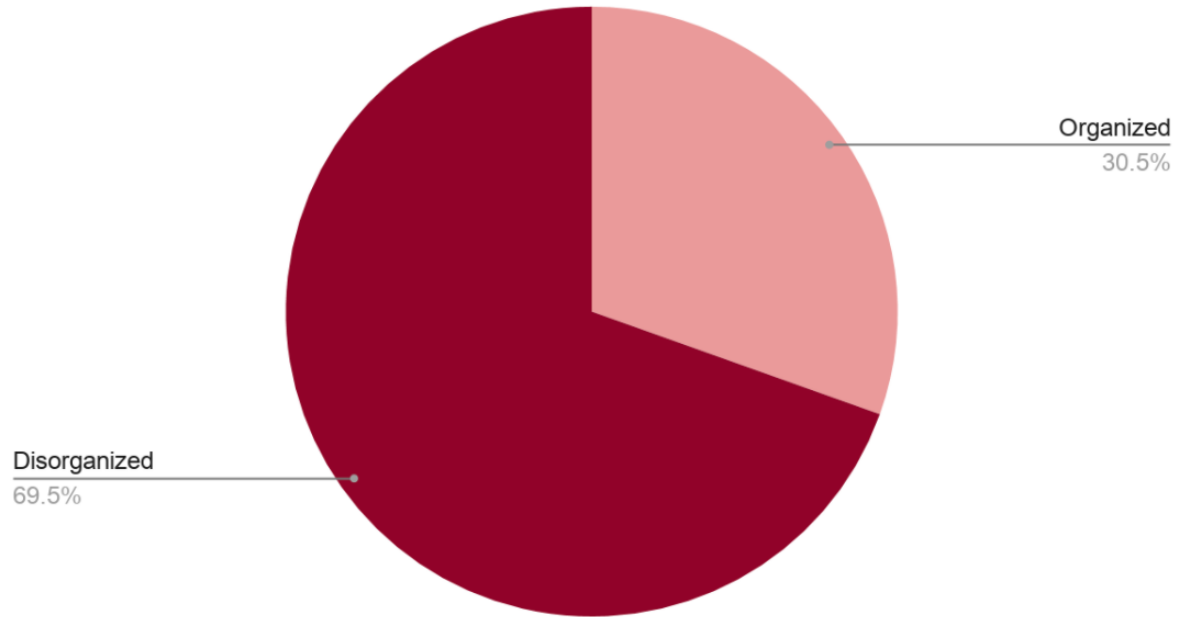
39 responses



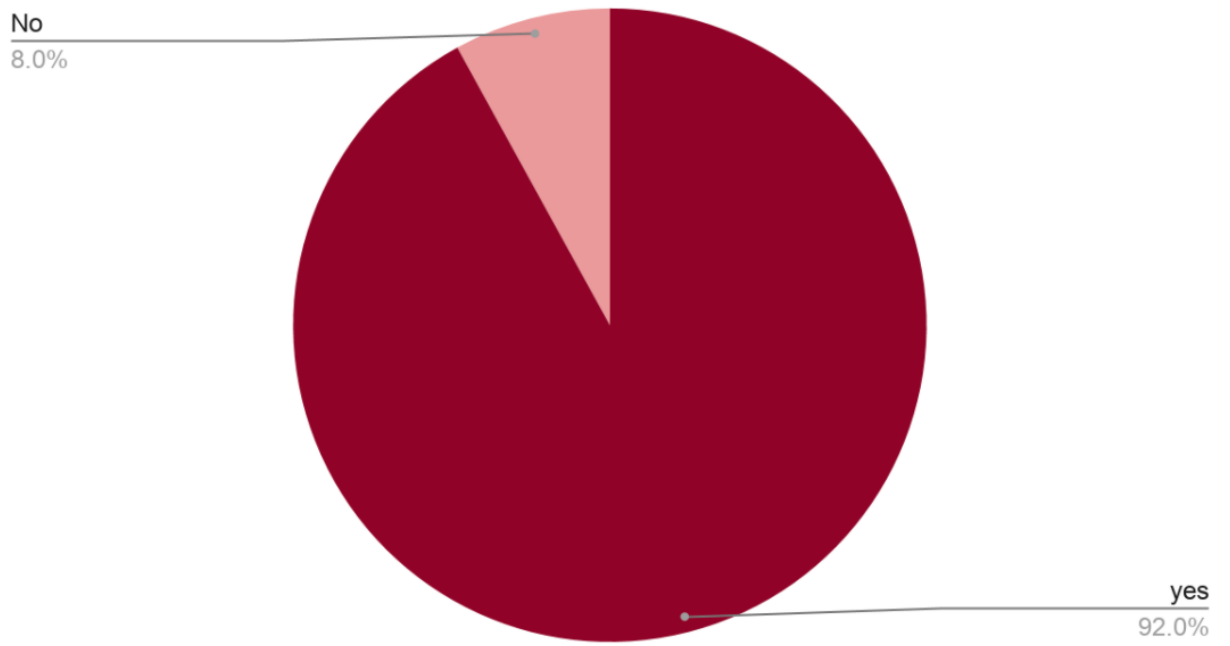
From these two charts alone, the conclusion can already be drawn that a considerable portion of Rose Hill students are experiencing absence issues due to pre-existing computer issues, Zoom link disorganization, and/or wifi issues. While this proposal does not target improving wifi connectivity, students also indicated that a two-minute grace period would have remedied these indicated issues, most likely the computer/technology issues and Zoom link disorganization.

The following three charts were issued directly from Fordham College at Rose Hill Dean's Council. The first pie chart, asking, "Do you feel like classes are more organized or disorganized" generated a total of 151 responses, 70% indicating that classes felt more disorganized than organized. The second pie chart: "Are your zoom links all in different places?" generated a total of 250 responses, 92% overwhelmingly indicating "yes" to the question of this disorganization. The final pie chart, asking, "Would students like a five-minute grace period for lateness" generated 234 responses with 92% indicating that they would.

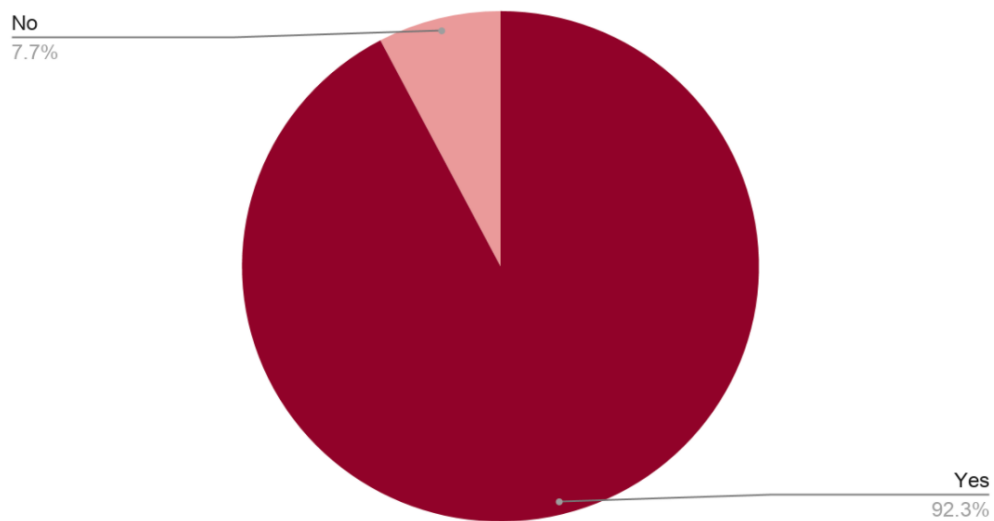
"Do you feel like classes are more organized or disorganized?" 151 Responses



"Are your zoom links all in different places?" 250 responses



"Would students like a five-minute grace period for lateness" 234 Responses



III. Appendix

41415.HIST1925R01.2021

20 (Spring 2021 - UHC: Science and Technology (HIST-1925-R01))

Home Page

Syllabus & Zoom Link

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Syllabus & Zoom Link




Syllabus 



Zoom Link



Class Groups & Meeting Times 

43426.ECON1100802.302
 150 Spring 2021 Basic
 Macroeconomics (ECON-
 1100-802)

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- Course Zoom link
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Course Zoom link

Monday Synchronous Zoom meeting link ^3

Topic: Basic Macroeconomics Synchronous Meetings: 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

You see this link for all synchronous meetings on the following days (and please note that although most of the synchronous meeting days fall on a Monday, two occur on a Thursday (2/11 and 3/25):

Feb 1, 2021 10:00 AM
Feb 4, 2021 10:00 AM
Feb 11, 2021 10:00 AM (Thursday)
Feb 18, 2021 10:00 AM
Feb 22, 2021 10:00 AM
Mar 1, 2021 10:00 AM
Mar 8, 2021 10:00 AM
Mar 15, 2021 10:00 AM
Mar 22, 2021 10:00 AM
Mar 25, 2021 10:00 AM (Thursday)
Mar 29, 2021 10:00 AM
Apr 5, 2021 10:00 AM
Apr 12, 2021 10:00 AM
Apr 15, 2021 10:00 AM (Thursday)
Apr 19, 2021 10:00 AM
Apr 26, 2021 10:00 AM
May 3, 2021 10:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
 Weekly: <https://fordham.zoom.us/join?from=VZduurzdGdJodfzS2Qmno2HvGLYxYudics7oaTskern?9WvcGZhoajcHNW5wBoGZpw5BvdM7-zmbzbbjocnDDBHJIUw74MVAWJjePQCI>

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://fordham.zoom.us/j/99416612831?pwd=VlRldzFyemZlcWVZYW9lbnQOMVVGUt09>

Meeting ID: 894 1661 2831
 Passcode: 511394

One tap mobile
 +16465588656,,89416612831# US (New York)
 +13126266799,,89416612831# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8856 US (New York)
+1 312 626 8799 US (Chicago)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 669 902 6533 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 894 1661 2831
 Find your local number: <https://fordham.zoom.us/j/99416612831>

Join by SIP
89416612831@zoomcs.com

Figure 1.2.3
Images of examples of Zoom links organized effectively on Blackboard.