

# The Student Voice

**Subject: Post-COVID Life**

**Listening Session: 2/23/2021**

**Prompt 1:** *What parts of the “normal” NDSU experience are members of your organization most looking forward to when COVID restrictions are lifted?*

Students are most looking forward to a number of in-person, collaborative events. General answers about human interaction included seeing people’s smiles and full expressions, the directness of face to face communication, and just being able to gather in person.

Specifically related to the classroom, they’re looking forward to attending class in person, having classes be full, and getting the traditional classroom experience back. Related to their organizations, students are excited about gathering in person, doing “normal” outreach and recruiting, attending celebration events, traveling to conferences, and reinstating NDSU traditions such as homecoming, and being able to do something as simple as singing in groups again.

**Prompt 2:** *Are there changes made because of the pandemic that you hope will remain a part of the NDSU experience moving forward?*

In general, students are thankful for the efforts of faculty in staff in terms of extra grace periods, patience, accessibility, and creativity in engagement. They hope that spirit will continue as a part of NDSU culture.

Most answers to this question related to the flexibility for learning that technology has provided during the pandemic. Access to recorded lectures (as a supplement for reference, not a primary means of attending class) was a common request. Students see the advantages of HyFlex learning for those not able to be in person for a variety of reasons, particularly for non-traditional and international populations, and would like to see the option continue in some form. They also acknowledged the possibility of misuse of the options and the need to account for that in future usage of the technology. In terms of student life on campus, they appreciate the inclusivity of being able to provide remote options and livestreaming for campus events and meetings and hope to see that continue.

**Prompt 3:** *How has the pandemic changed the way you view your education?*

Common answers indicated students taking their education less for granted and placing more value on the experience in general. The pandemic made them want to go to class more, increased desire to be here and be learning, and the increased understanding of the purpose behind planning and being prepared. The experience also highlighted the importance of extracurriculars and campus life as a part of the educational experience.

Students felt the pandemic placed more responsibility on them in terms of their own learning, created doubts over the job market, and made some consider taking time off from school. With less structure and regularity, they did experience additional stress, and learning remotely came with higher levels of distraction.

**Prompt 4:** *Has the pandemic had any positive outcomes for the members of your organization?*

The pandemic experience provided the opportunity to continue pursuing education, additional time for many with family, and some expanded opportunities. It has provided more time to think, reflect, and appreciate the value of community.

The technology has provided tools to make stay connected and make progress as organizations even over the summer months when communication typically comes to a halt. The technology has made meetings easier and more accessible. One religiously affiliated organization noted an increase in their ability to meet community needs through recorded worship and take out meals that allowed more students to participate. Another group talked about innovative events that were planned because of pandemic restrictions, but were successful and will continue into the future.