

From: URMCM Communications
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:31 AM
Subject: Update on Fitness Center

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Listening Session in mid-April. Your feedback reinforced our commitment to offering a wide range of emotional, physical and wellness support resources for our faculty, staff and students.

We have continued to review options and are evaluating the possibility of housing a Fitness Center in College Town. Our next step is to fully vet the concept with URMCM's Wellness Strategic Planning Work Group, co-chaired by Michael Privitera and Andrea Wasilewski, to make sure this is a viable solution. Working with this group also will assure improved information flow and feedback to/from the current membership and URMCM employees before any final decisions are made.

Please keep in mind that that any decision to move forward must go through the standard University approval processes. Obtaining approvals and then building, equipping and staffing a new facility will take time, but we wanted you to know a solution may be on the horizon.

We also are providing updates on items from the Listening Session:

- **Temporary Opening:** The Fitness Center cannot be temporarily re-opened pending demolition. This option is not feasible given the time required to hire and train staff, prepare the facility for social distancing and other NYS requirements, and open up with sufficient time before it is scheduled for demolition. An additional obstacle is that we are still working to identify an adequate storage facility for the NYS-required 90 days of PPE supply currently stored in the space.
- **Affordable Access to Conveniently Located Gyms:** We have recently learned that University employees enrolled in an Excellus plan can take advantage of [Blue365](#), a wellness discount program on gym memberships, fitness gear, healthy eating options and more. "[Fitness Your Way](#)" is part of this program which, for \$30 a month, provides basic membership to dozens of fitness locations locally (11,000 nationwide), along with the ability to participate in live virtual classes and to access on-demand video sessions ranging from strength training to meditation. This option is in addition to the [YMCA 25% membership discount program](#) available to all URMCM faculty, staff and students, along with membership to the Goergen facility, which we expect will open to all faculty and staff in the summer.

Thank you again for your feedback. Your concerns and suggestions have been heard. We'll continue to work with URMCM's Wellness Strategic Planning Work Group to address feedback and will stay in touch with the entire membership as updates become available.