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Qian Magwood is excited to begin the next chapter of his football career at Ball State. **> 08** 

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# CANCELED DEPARTURES

## Ball State's spring schedule changed, students react

#### Charles Melton, Grace McCormick and Maya Wilkins

News Editor, Assistant News Editor and Reporter

After an unprecedented fall semester, Ball State has changed its spring semester schedule.

Paaige Turner is leading the Academic Planning Group task force in its research. Turner, dean of the College of Communication, Information and Media, said the task force was formed in June and includes faculty from each academic college.

Decisions of Ball State's peer institutions, including Indiana public universities and universities in the Mid-American Conference, were considered before the task force adapted the spring schedule, Turner said. "We're seeing very similar spring schedules from other institutions," she said. "We would look at other institutions as sort of a fact check to make sure there's nothing that we're missing or something we hadn't considered."

Turner is confident the spring 2021 semester will include in-person instruction, but she said the Academic Planning Group is prepared to adapt its plans.

"We'll take things we learned this semester and use them as we're building the spring semester," she said. "I've been part of this planning process since March ... and the amount of work, and thought and consideration that's gone into this is unfathomable."

Turner said once students submit course feedback during midterms, the Academic Planning Group will use those responses to determine how some courses will be delivered and if online instruction will change.

On Sept. 24, Ball State University Provost Susanna Rivera-Mills sent out an email to students regarding the Spring 2021 semester, stating that the start of the semester will be moved to Jan. 19, 2021, and spring break has been canceled to try to keep COVID-19 cases at a minimum.

Rivera-Mills spoke on behalf of the university, understanding that this situation is not ideal, but it is what the university must do to keep students on campus and classes in person.

"I was pretty mad they took away our spring break," junior Laura Denk said. "I think I'd rather get out a week early than stay home for Christmas a week longer."

▶ See BREAK, 06

MAGGIE GETZIN, DN

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