Welcome to Wesleyan! I am thrilled that you have chosen to be a Cardinal and look forward to working with you as your class dean over the next four years.

Wesleyan will challenge you to make important choices and assume personal responsibilities that will influence your educational and co-curricular goals. By leaning into your curiosity, working hard, understanding the expectations of your professors, exercising good time management and study skills, and being unafraid to ask for help, you will put yourself in a position of strength from the start. As your class dean and part of your advising network, I am here to support you in this process and help you take full advantage of the resources that will facilitate your success at Wesleyan.

Your engagement with life at Wesleyan as a pre-matriculated student begins in early June when you will receive your email account information and access to the New Student Checklist in WesPortal. The checklist includes items that you need to complete in preparation for the fall semester and provides important links to details about housing, course registration, arrival day, and orientation activities. To ensure a smooth transition into the Wesleyan community, it is important that you pay attention to the deadline for each item listed. You will continue to receive weekly, summer emails and blog posts to provide you with vital information, resources, and reminders to help you prepare for the fall.

As an introduction to academic engagement at Wes, my colleagues in Admissions informed you about First Year Seminars and other summer course offerings just for incoming first year students. You will receive more details about registration in the upcoming weeks; please note that the registration period opens on June 10.

Each year we select a common reading for all incoming students. This year’s common reading is a book titled *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. McGhee is a Distinguished Senior Fellow and immediate past president at Demos, a non-profit progressive U.S. think tank. You will receive details about how to access your free copy of the book early this summer. Plan to read the book and submit your reflections by August 20 so that you are prepared to discuss it with your new classmates and faculty during orientation.

You will have a chance to complete the Academic Interest Questionnaire which has been designed to get you thinking more reflectively about your first-semester program of study and your long-term academic goals in light of the opportunities offered at Wesleyan. This is an important tool for helping you prepare for course registration. In July, you will participate in the first part of pre-registration. During this planning stage, you will identify courses that you are interested in taking. You will then have a tentative class schedule to review and finalize with your faculty advisor when you arrive on campus. Class deans, faculty members, and peer advisors will be available—along with some excellent online resources—to answer questions about courses, your overall plan of study, and the registration process.

New Student Orientation begins on Wednesday, September 1. You are expected to be an active participant in all the activities throughout the summer and the start of the fall semester, which include faculty advisor meetings, academic and campus life workshops, and an array of
residential life programs and social activities. Many orientation activities will provide you with genuine opportunities to establish relationships with people that may last a lifetime! This orientation is designed to familiarize you with the Wesleyan community—what you can expect from us and what we expect from you—and to prepare you for the academic and personal challenges and joys of your undergraduate career.

Your academic achievements, co-curricular accomplishments, talents, hard work and perseverance in the face of a global pandemic have brought you to Wesleyan. I invite you now to continue on this trajectory and to engage with the myriad learning opportunities that Wesleyan offers both inside and outside the classroom. Get ready for an amazing four years and welcome to Wes!

Sincerely,

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