



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The University Faculty Senate
AGENDA

Friday, August 13, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
SPECIAL SENATE MEETING

Via ZOOM at 10:00 a.m.

ZOOM link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/97759044937>

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

+1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)

Webinar ID: 977 5904 4937

International numbers available: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/97759044937>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16468769923,97759044937# or +13017158592,97759044937#

We will use TallySpace to vote during this meeting. Senators who have voting rights should have their Penn State 9-digit ID number ready and follow the instructions found here:

<https://senate.psu.edu/senators/tallyspace-voting-instructions/>

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

B. DISCUSSION OF UNIVERSITY PLANS FOR FALL SEMESTER

University Faculty Senate Resolution for Sequential Actions in Response to Penn State's
COVID-19 Policies as of August 13, 2021

Appendix A

University Faculty Senate Response to the University's Fall 2021 Plan
(Vote of No Confidence)

Appendix B

C. ACTION ITEMS – Plan to vote by approximately 11:40 a.m.

Vote on Resolution in Appendix A

Vote on Resolution in Appendix B

D. ADJOURNMENT

Senators are reminded to wait to be unmuted and identify themselves and their voting unit before speaking on the floor. Members of the University community, who are not Senators, may not speak at a Senate meeting unless they request and are granted the privilege of the floor from the Senate Chair at least five days in advance of the meeting.

Faculty Senate Resolution for Sequential Actions in Response to Penn State's COVID-19 Policies as of August 13, 2021

Patricia Birungi, Kimberly Blockett, Wendy A. Coduti, Caroline D. Eckhardt, Siela N. Maximova

(Senate Council Working Group)

(Positional)

Rationale

We stand in solidarity with the [University Park Undergraduate Association \(UPUA\)](#), and the [Graduate and Professional Student Organization Association \(GPSA\)](#), [Burrough of State College](#), [American Association of University Professors \(AAUP\) – Penn State](#), and [Coalition for a Just University \(CJU\)](#) calls to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible Penn State students, faculty and staff. On May 12, 2021, the University Faculty Senate [passed a resolution](#) for Penn State to require COVID-19 vaccinations before the start of the Fall 2021 semester. Based on the current decisions of Penn State administration regarding COVID-19 policies, we present this resolution.

Resolution

Whereas, the Penn State administration have not been fully transparent, promptly communicative, nor inclusive concerning COVID-19 planning and decisions;

Whereas, the decision not to require COVID-19 vaccinations for Penn State students, faculty and staff jeopardizes the health, welfare, and lives of people, particularly children and others at increased risk;

Whereas, the administration has not communicated details about specific consequences or enforcement for non-compliance with required COVID-19 policies;

Whereas, current policies do not fully accommodate faculty, staff, and student circumstances during a pandemic, which require more alternatives and flexibility; and,

Whereas, all instructors do not have sufficient choice in determining course and/or class delivery mode(s) during COVID-19;

Be it resolved, that the University Faculty Senate calls for an immediate vaccination mandate for eligible Penn State students, faculty, and staff and further calls for the following actions until full vaccination can occur:

1. universal mask mandates;
2. twice weekly COVID-19 testing for individuals without proof of vaccination; and
3. adherence to CDC recommendations and/or restrictions for all Penn State students, faculty, and staff (including gatherings on University-managed property and University sponsored activities).

Be it further resolved, that the University Faculty Senate calls for

1. instructor choice in determining course and/or class delivery mode(s) based on individual instructors and student circumstances;
2. faculty, student, and staff choice for remote options for any campus activity including, but not limited to, office hours, graduate student exams, and meetings; and
3. significant and diverse faculty representation proportionate to administration on any and all committees, groups, or taskforces related to COVID-19 plans and policies.

Be it further resolved, that the University Faculty Senate reserves the right to revisit a Vote of No Confidence on or before the next scheduled Senate plenary meeting, on September 14, 2021.

SENATE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Patricia Birungi
- Renee Bishop-Pierce
- Kimberly Blockett
- Victor Brunsden
- Wendy Coduti
- Michele Duffey
- Caroline Eckhardt
- Roger Egolf
- William Kenyon
- Beth King
- Lisa Kitko
- Lisa Mangel
- Frantisek Marko

- Siela Maximova
- Judith Ozment
- Tim Palmer
- Lisa Posey
- Beth Seymour
- Keith Shapiro
- Alok Sinha
- Stephen Snyder
- Karin Sprow-Forte
- James Strauss
- Matthew Swinarski
- Douglas Wolfe

University Faculty Senate Response to the University's Fall 2021 Plan

CORRECTED COPY

(Shaded areas in [square brackets] reflect editorial revisions made during the Senate meeting.)

(Positional)

Mohamad Ansari – Past Senate Chair, Renee Bishop-Pierce, Victor Brunsden, Michele Duffey,
Frantisek Marko, James Strauss

(Senate Council Working Group)

Preamble:

The University Faculty Senate of the Pennsylvania State University endeavored to work cooperatively with the University to develop COVID-19 pandemic plans that protect the health, safety, and educational interests of faculty, staff, and students. Toward this goal, Senate passed a resolution about COVID-19 testing, monitoring, and management, and a second resolution mandating COVID-19 vaccination for all Penn State members. The University's Fall 2021 Plan falls short of faculty expectations and does not embody a sense of safety and confidence among our faculty, staff, and students.

Resolution:

(Add) **Whereas**, current policies do not fully accommodate faculty, staff, and student circumstances during a pandemic, which require more alternatives and flexibility; *(End Add)*

WHEREAS Centre County and most counties surrounding Penn State Campuses have “substantial community transmission of COVID-19” as designated by the Centers for Disease Control;

WHEREAS the University's Fall 2021 Plan does not include a vaccination mandate for faculty, students, and staff;

WHEREAS the University's Fall 2021 Plan does not account for faculty, staff, students, and their household members, who are not eligible for vaccination, and must be afforded the option of remote work to protect their and their household's health and safety;

WHEREAS the University's Fall 2021 Plan does not allow faculty autonomy over curriculum and pedagogy, including instructional mode and classroom management;

WHEREAS the University's Fall 2021 Plan does not require universal arrival COVID testing for all students; nor a contact tracing plan that is reasonable, given in-residence course delivery without physical distancing;

WHEREAS the University Faculty Senate does recognize the University's recent announcement of masking for faculty and students as a positive step; however, this action was not negotiated for unionized employees;

WHEREAS the University did not engage the University Faculty Senate in shared governance regarding COVID planning and decisions. The planning process was not transparent and decisions were made by an exclusive administrative group without satisfactory explanation;

BE IT RESOLVED the University Faculty Senate of the Pennsylvania State University provides a **VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE regarding the University's COVID-19 Plan for Fall 2021.**

BE IT RESOLVED the University Faculty Senate of the Pennsylvania State University urges the University to reconsider their Fall 2021 Plan, work closely with Senate, and make all plans and contingencies transparent to the university community, to directly address the outlined issues of contention, as stated in the above resolution.

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