

Preamble*:

The Faculty Senate of the University of Florida endeavors to work cooperatively with the University to establish COVID-19 mitigation measures to protect the health, safety, and educational interests of faculty, staff, and students at the University of Florida. Toward this goal, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution at its August 26, 2021 meeting opposing statewide restrictions on COVID-19 mitigation measures in the State University System during a global pandemic. These restrictions currently result in the University's COVID-19 mitigation measures falling short of medical recommendations and do not create a sense of safety and confidence among our faculty, staff, and students.

Resolution*:

WHEREAS all counties in the State of Florida currently have "high community transmission of COVID-19" as designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

WHEREAS the University of Florida's COVID-19 mitigation measures are restricted from including a vaccination or masking mandate for faculty, students, and staff;

WHEREAS the University of Florida's and PK Yonge's Fall 2021 operations put individuals who are not currently eligible for vaccination – including UF students, employees, and youth under age twelve who are enrolled in University preschool and K-12 educational facilities – at risk of potentially life-threatening exposure to COVID-19;

WHEREAS state officials have prevented the University of Florida from acting on the recommendations of its own local medical authorities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida provides a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE regarding the University's Fall 2021 COVID-19 mitigation measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida provides a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE in the COVID leadership of Florida's State University System Board of Governors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state leadership, including the Governor of Florida, the Legislature of the State of Florida, and the State University System Board of Governors should immediately allow administrators at the University of Florida the freedom to follow local medical recommendations in establishing COVID-19 mitigation measures for all eligible faculty, staff, and students.