

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 COVID-19-Fall 2021 operations put individuals who are not currently eligible for vaccination mitigation measures are restricted from providing accommodations for 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 – ~~thus putting these individuals~~ at risk of potentially life-threatening exposure to COVID-19 ~~and restricting their ability to choose a safe work and educational environment;~~

~~WHEREAS the University's Fall 2021 COVID-19 mitigation measures do not require universal COVID testing for all students upon arrival at the University; nor do they include a sufficiently robust contact tracing program, given on-campus course delivery without physical distancing;~~

~~WHEREAS Judge John C. Cooper of Florida's 2nd Circuit ruled that the Governor of Florida's administration overstepped its authority in restricting school districts from enacting mask mandates;~~

~~WHEREAS P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School is a K-12 public school affiliated with the University of Florida and constitutes its own school district;~~

WHEREAS state officials have prevented the University of Florida from acting on the recommendations of it's own local medical~~refused to heed the advice of medical authorities;~~ including medical authorities at the University of Florida, when articulating the COVID-19 mitigation measures that affect State University System institutions;

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 ~~of Florida~~ Board of Governors.

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that P.K. Yonge should be afforded the ability to make decisions about mask mandates for their school district.~~

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~~remove restrictions that limit administrators at the University of Florida ~~the freedom to and the Board of Trustees from following local~~ medical recommendations in establishing COVID-19 mitigation measures for all eligible faculty, staff, and students;

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida shouldwill provide all at-risk members of the UF community — including employees or students who are immunocompromised or ineligible for vaccination — with remote work options.~~