Preamble*:

The University Faculty Senate of the University of Florida is very concerned about University of Florida’s COVID-19 pandemic plans that protect the health, safety, and educational interests of faculty, staff, and students. Toward this goal, the University’s Fall 2021 Plan falls short of faculty expectations and does not create a sense of safety and confidence among our faculty, staff, and students.

Resolution*:

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

WHEREAS Alachua County and most counties surrounding University of Florida campuses have “high 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 or masking or testing 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 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 University of Florida 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 University of Florida 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.

* This document closely follows the language from Penn State’s Resolution https://senate.psu.edu/senators/agendas-records/august-13-2021-special-senate-meeting-agenda/appendix-b-2/