

ATTACHMENT E

Texas A&M University
Graduate and Professional Student Government
Senate
55th Session, 2021–2022

Resolution

Addressing Graduate and Professional Students’ Concerns Among Texas A&M’s COVID-19 Pandemic Efforts

Introduced By: Rohan Singh Wilkho, GPSG, Vice President of Information

Sponsored By: Nathan A. Shelley, GPSG, Speaker and Executive Vice President

Whereas (1): The Texas A&M Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) acknowledges and appreciates the Texas A&M University administration for its mandatory COVID-19 testing & reporting at the start of the Fall 2021 semester and ‘*Get Vaxxed*’ study initiatives;¹ and,

Whereas (2): GPSG also acknowledges the Texas A&M University administration’s initiative to place masks in all classrooms;² and,

Whereas (3): The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that the Delta Variant (currently rampant across the globe, in the US and Texas) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is twice as contagious as the original variant;³ and,

Whereas (4): The CDC recommends masking (for even vaccinated people) indoors and in crowded outdoor spaces;⁴ and,

Whereas (5): The 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases and deaths resulting from COVID-19 are increasing exponentially in Brazos County, Texas and the United States;^{5,6} and:

	Cases (<i>June 1 - Sept 20</i>)	Deaths (<i>June 1 - Sept 20</i>)
Brazos County	10 to 160 (1500.00% increase)	0 to 0
Texas	1038 to 15,257 (1369.85% increase)	25 to 275 (1000.00% increase)
United States	15,966 to 131,734 (725.09% increase)	336 to 1512 (350.00% increase)

- Whereas (6):** Other public universities in Texas like University of Texas (UT) Austin⁷, UT Dallas⁸, UT San Antonio⁹, and Texas State¹⁰ are offering greater flexibility for hybrid and online classes in Fall 2021; and,
- Whereas (7):** GPSG acknowledges that Texas A&M has a body called the COVID-19 Contingency Council which meets weekly. However, transparency about COVID-19 contingency planning among the graduate and professional student body remains insufficient¹¹; and,
- Whereas (8):** Peer institutes¹² like University of Michigan¹³, University of North Carolina¹⁴, and University of Wisconsin¹⁵ requires unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff to get tested weekly; and,
- Whereas (9):** Texas A&M has offered to allow faculty and staff (*with no mention of graduate or professional student assistants or workers*) to schedule vaccination events at their homes and provide potential favorable care in case they test positive for COVID-19⁹; and,
- Whereas (10):** In Texas A&M's mandatory COVID-19 testing program, over 79,000 tests were conducted, which resulted in an average positivity rate of 4.19%.¹⁶
- Let it be Resolved (1):** The Graduate and Professional Student Government requests Texas A&M University administration to offer greater flexibility to instructors (*including graduate and professional students*) for remote instruction in situations like (but not limited to): COVID-19 outbreaks in classrooms, immunocompromised family members, classes or labs with very large student attendance; and,
- Resolved (2):** The Graduate and Professional Student Government requests that the Texas A&M University administration and the COVID-19 Contingency Council work to increase transparency and communication regarding COVID-19 contingency planning; and
- Resolved (3):** The Graduate and Professional Student Government requests Texas A&M University administration to extend the same facilities to graduate and professional students working in-person that are being and would be offered to faculty (instructors and researchers) in case of an unprecedented emergency, such as access to monoclonal antibody treatment and at-home vaccination for groups of 5 or greater; and,
- Resolved (4):** The Graduate and Professional Student Government requests Texas A&M University administration to establish compulsory regular COVID-19 testing for all students, faculty, and staff throughout the Fall 2021 semester; and,

Resolved (5): The Graduate and Professional Student Government looks forward to monitoring the university's rollout of masks in all classrooms; and,

Resolved (6): A copy of this resolution shall be posted and delivered to:

- Dr. Katherine Banks
President of Texas A&M University
- Dr. Mark A. Weichold
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
- Dr. Timothy P. Scott
Incoming Provost and Executive Vice President
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success
- BG Joe Ramirez
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School
- Dr. Anne Reber
Dean of Student Life
- Dr. Dale Rice
Speaker of Faculty Senate
- Ms. Natalie Parks
Student Body President, SGA
- Ms. Iman Ahmed
Speaker of the Student Senate, SGA
- Mr. Robert J. McCaffery
Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Government
- Dr. Stefanie Baker
Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Body President
- Members of the GPSLCG
Graduate and Professional Student Leadership Communication Group

Action Taken: Passed

Certified By: 
Nathan A. Shelley
Speaker & Executive Vice President, GPSG

Date: September 21, 2021

Duly Approved By: 
Staci Rende
Student Body President, GPSG

¹ Fall 2021 COVID-19 Management and Guidance Plan
<https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/messages/fall-2021-covid-19-management-and-guidance-plans.html>

² Action items from Faculty Senate Meeting
<https://president.tamu.edu/messages/action-items-from-faculty-senate-meeting.html>

³ Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>

⁴ When You've Been Fully Vaccinated
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

⁵ Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailycases

⁶ Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailycases

⁷ Fall Planning Update
<https://provost.utexas.edu/2021/08/09/fall-planning-update-2/>

⁸ Message from the President of UT Dallas
<https://president.utdallas.edu/message/2021-08-16.html>

⁹ Roadrunner Roadmap - Fall Classes and Student Experience
<https://www.txstate.edu/coronavirus/road-map/teaching-research.html>

¹⁰ Teaching & Research
<https://www.txstate.edu/coronavirus/road-map/teaching-research.html>

¹¹ Faculty Teaching FAQs
[https://facultysenate.tamu.edu/Quick-Links/Important-Faculty-Updates-\(1\)](https://facultysenate.tamu.edu/Quick-Links/Important-Faculty-Updates-(1))

¹² Peer Institutions List
<https://vision2020.tamu.edu/peer-institutions>

¹³ Fall term COVID-19 health and safety update
<https://president.umich.edu/news-communications/letters-to-the-community/fall-term-covid-19-health-and-safety-update/>

¹⁴ COVID-19 Update: Increasing testing for unvaccinated students

<https://www.ttu.edu/administration/president/communications/letters-and-memos/letter-2021.08.27.pdf>

¹⁵ COVID-19 testing required for unvaccinated students, employees

<https://covidresponse.wisc.edu/>

¹⁶ A&M announces results of mandatory COVID-19 testing program

https://www.thebatt.com/news/a-m-announces-results-of-mandatory-covid-19-testing-program/article_ce4557f2-1b25-11ec-b499-7fde07089071.html