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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cases (June 1 - Sept 20)</th>
<th>Deaths (June 1 - Sept 20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazos County</td>
<td>10 to 160</td>
<td>0 to 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1500.00% increase)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>1038 to 15,257</td>
<td>25 to 275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1369.85% increase)</td>
<td>(1000.00% increase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>15,966 to 131,734</td>
<td>336 to 1512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(725.09% increase)</td>
<td>(350.00% increase)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Whereas (6): Other public universities in Texas like University of Texas (UT) Austin, UT Dallas, UT San Antonio, and Texas State 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 insufficient; and,

Whereas (8): Peer institutes like University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, and University of Wisconsin 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-19; 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%.  

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 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, GPSC
1 Fall 2021 COVID-19 Management and Guidance Plan

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

4 When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated

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

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://faculty senate.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
14 COVID-19 Update: Increasing testing for unvaccinated students
https://www.ttue.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