Faculty Senate Resolution on COVID-19 Guidelines for Fall 2021
Approved August 9, 2021

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) state the new Delta variant is more transmissible than the original COVID-19 virus; and

Whereas, the CDC now recommends that areas with high transmission of COVID-19 resume mask-wearing indoors regardless of vaccination status; and

Whereas, the county data provided by the CDC places many counties in Texas in high risk categories for transmission of COVID-19; and

Whereas, according to Texas Department of State Health data, the fully vaccinated rate for the state of Texas is currently below the national average; and

Whereas, forecasters at the University of Texas at Austin COVID-19 Modeling Consortium concluded recently that most regions of the state are headed back to the capacity-busting hospitalization rates of January 2021 if people do not resume masking and social distancing; and

Whereas, Texas A&M University is prohibited by Texas State Executive Orders from requiring masks or vaccinations for faculty, staff, and students who are in face-to-face classes and meetings on campus; and

Whereas, many classrooms and other facilities used for academic purposes, such as advising and office hours, do not permit proper social distancing for faculty, staff, students, and visitors; and

Whereas, University campuses concentrate individuals from diverse locations with different health statuses and vaccination rates, creating high risk of exposure to viruses; and

Whereas, Texas A&M University has built a rich academic history based on the study of scientific principles; and

Whereas, the University is being constrained in its protective and preventive measures by forces outside its control; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University urges that individual institutions be allowed to make their own decisions involving the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic based on sound scientific evidence, local health conditions, and public health standards.

205 YMCA
1225 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-1225

Tel. 979.478.1014
senate@tamu.edu
facultysenate.tamu.edu