



Called Faculty Senate Meeting – COVID Protocol

August 20, 2021 – 2:45 p.m.

- Meeting called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Lisa Johnson, Faculty Chair.
- Updates from the Chair:
 - COVID information is accessible from the USC Upstate home page through the banner link at the top of the page.
 - Read into record the report from Mary Bucher, Special Assistant to the Chancellor:
 - 750 individuals have uploaded vaccination records
 - Vaccinations have been occurring in on-campus clinics this week
 - Web and Instagram campaigns for #VaxUP are in place, developing one for SnapChat now
 - Incentive plan being finalized
 - Contact tracing is same day
 - Working to hire a new employee to assist with testing
 - 1 on-campus case, 13 off-campus cases this week
 - Tested residential students at move in
 - Student athletes have mandatory testing
 - Purchasing PPE for departments
 - Donnette Stewart is handling student and parent concerns
 - Masks are required indoors
- Questions and comments from faculty:
 - Have students been polled on feelings of modality changes? Student backing would make it mean more.
 - We need maximum standards, not just minimum guidelines.
 - Some classes/ classrooms do not allow for social distancing.
 - Have any HVAC improvements been made?
 - Hard to hear students in the masks – foreign language courses
 - Concern over undiagnosed cases
 - Library and lounge areas – students have been lax in mask wearing
 - What is the classroom cleaning protocol – keyboards, mouse, etc.?
 - We already require vaccinations – why not COVID vaccine?
 - Mental health concerns if students are all-virtual

- 3:45 p.m. – Chair read the Senate Resolution for a Safe Return to Campus for discussion
- Motion to adopt the resolution by David Coberly, seconded by Jim Kamla
- Vince Connors moved that we strike the material in Points 1-8 on Page 3 and replace it with a simple statement: “For the safety and health of our students, supported by the science available to us, that we move to a virtual format effective immediately until the current COVID situation is under control with the exception of courses where physical interaction is an essential component of instruction.”
- Discussion
 - Some disciplines need to be in person due to nature of the subject matter
 - Change to the motion – add the physical activity component
 - Vote to add to motion:
 - “with the exception of courses where physical interaction is an essential component of instruction”
 - Amended motion passes.
- Motion by Vincent Connors taken over by Monika Shehi Herr, seconded by X Tang.
 - Vote on motion – motion does not carry.
 - 14 yeas, 15 nays
- Discussion of original resolution.
 - Question was called and seconded (Dan Norris).
 - Vote to call the question passed – 23 yeas, 2 nays
- Vote on motion to accept the proposed resolution for a safe return to campus
 - Vote on resolution passed – 25 yeas, 2 nays
- Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Land, Recording Secretary