

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic poses unprecedented risks to the health of the University community and the larger population of Athens,

Be it resolved that

1. We commend the USG for its July 7 decision to require masks on campus effective July 15 as a necessary measure to protect campus communities in Georgia from the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. We are cautiously encouraged by the announcement of plans for testing and contact tracing of individuals infected with COVID-19. The details of these plans must be shared at the earliest possible time, and the concerns and ideas of faculty, students, and staff must be actively solicited. Moreover, given the prevalence of asymptomatic cases, we cannot wait for people to show symptoms before they are tested: every student returning to campus housing must be tested within 24 hours of arrival.
3. USG, UGA, and Franklin College administration must provide clear, prompt, and accurate reports about positive test results to the entire campus community, including results obtained to date. Reports must include any information that may assist community members in planning for their own safety, as well as that of their friends and colleagues, subject to reasonable safeguards for privacy. In the case of infected employees, these reports must include their job categories and the physical location of the work they perform; in the case of infected students, they must include the identities of any affected dormitories. Furthermore, clear plans, appropriate to each campus sector (facilities, labs, academic buildings, dormitories, etc.) for the protection of these individuals, and of the members of the campus community who have been exposed to them, must be formulated and made public at the earliest opportunity.
4. Guidelines for triggering the closure of campus due to COVID-19 contagion must be formulated and disseminated at the earliest opportunity.
5. The risks of on campus exposure to COVID-19 are borne not only by UGA employees, but also by their family members. Furthermore, many UGA employees will face unresolvable issues of child care and other domestic responsibilities generated by the pandemic. Therefore, it is imperative that no staff, student, or faculty member be compelled to learn, teach, or work face-to-face this Fall. There must be no penalty, whether subtle or overt, for requesting online-only engagement. This includes supervisor evaluations for faculty and staff and attendance grades for students. No medical documentation shall be required. Furthermore, no faculty or staff members shall be fired, laid off, or furloughed if they have a job that cannot be done remotely.
6. Policies regarding face to face instruction must protect all members of the instructional faculty equally, including graduate teaching assistants. Any policy that acts to enable or

to encourage the passing of risk from higher- to lower-status instructors, such as quotas for face to face contact hours, must be firmly rejected.

7. The University must immediately initiate a series of open town halls, permitting all members of the community to speak freely and without fear of reprisal about their concerns about campus life during the continuing pandemic.
8. All future decision making related to campus COVID-19 policy shall include substantive representation and participation from faculty, staff, and students. Every existing UGA COVID planning committee must immediately be expanded to include three additional members, chosen by the executive officers of the Faculty Senates of the various Colleges, the Staff Council, the University Council, the Student Government Association, and the Graduate Student Association.
9. It is deeply regrettable that the UGA and USG administrations have brought us so close to the opening of the Fall semester without a clear community understanding of the issues above. Furthermore, these issues by no means exhaust the list of unanswered concerns, many of them literal matters of life and death, held by staff, students, and faculty. It has become clear to all that the glaring failures of governance at The University of Georgia during the COVID-19 crisis are a direct result of decades of persistent narrowing of authority at the University into the hands of a tiny cluster of executives, all while excluding the inherent expertise and commitment held by the community itself.