

Fall 2021 Semester

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Cc: Grant, Keneshia N <keneshia.grant@Howard.edu>; Royal, Guericke C <groyal@Howard.edu>

Good morning Drs. Morse, Frederick, Wutoh, and Dubroy,

I am writing today as a response to the numerous and worried inquiries that faculty members are making regarding the processes and protocols in place as classes resume on August 23, 2021. There has been limited engagement between many faculty and deans or department chairpersons. Moreover, some faculty members are concerned that the communication that has occurred has been lacking. Accordingly, the Faculty Senate is seeking your immediate, detailed response to the following questions:

- To the greatest extent possible, should meetings be conducted online and/or via telephone?
- What is the appropriate social/physical distancing requirement between students in classrooms where in-person instruction will occur and in other in-person academic meetings and settings?
- Specifically, in what situations and to what extent will meeting/classroom capacities be reduced from their designed capacity?
- Will faculty in “high risk groups” -including those who are 65 or older, those who are immunocompromised, or those who have qualifying health conditions - be able to collaborate with their department chairs and deans to determine the feasibility of teaching remotely?
- What is the specific criteria used to determine if “there is a facility infrastructure issue” that would prevent in-person instruction? And who makes the determination whether a “facility infrastructure” issue exists?
- Do windows that cannot be opened, combined with poor ventilation, meet the criteria for a facility infrastructure issue?
- How is a determination of “adequate ventilation” reached? How often will this determination occur? Is building air being purified? What type of filtration systems are in place? Who is responsible for measuring air quality? How often will those measures occur?
- Are classrooms and other facilities being sanitized? How often will this occur? Is there an inspection process in-place? Who is responsible for conducting these inspections?
- What is the protocol for moving faculty, students, and staff throughout buildings? More specifically, how many persons should occupy an elevator? Will specific stairwells be used to ascend or descend floors? When will this information be communicated and by whom?
- How will you know whether every student in our classes has been vaccinated? Is there a policy in place to check vaccination cards to ensure this?
- Recent evidence suggests that surgical and cloth masks are insufficient in preventing transmission of the delta variant of Covid-19. In addition, transmission of this variant has been documented to take place outdoors. Will N95/KN95 masks be required on campus? Will these masks be made available to faculty, students, and staff?
- If students refuse to wear masks properly during class (such as their nose not being fully covered), what is the appropriate action to take for the faculty member teaching the class? How should a faculty member proceed when a student is not following mask protocols outside of the classroom?
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, what processes does the University follow to quarantine the student and prevent transmission to others on campus? And how will a positive test result impact in-person class meetings that had been attended by the student who falls sick?
- If a faculty member tests positive for COVID-19, what processes will the University follow? And how will this positive test result impact in-person class meetings?

Thank you,

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