

Draft2: HU Faculty Senate Emergency Call Meeting- Friday August 20, 2021@1pm - Zoom

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Thu 8/19/2021 9:44 PM

To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>

Dear colleagues,

All faculty senate members are invited to an emergency call meeting on Friday 8.20.21 at 1pm on Zoom.

The singular agenda item is a position and recommendation that HU faculty be able to choose the modality (in-person, online, or hybrid) for courses they are teaching during the Fall 2021 semester.

Potential motion: All Howard University faculty will be able to choose the modality (in-person, online, or hybrid) for courses they are teaching during the Fall 2021 semester.

All faculty members at Howard University should be allowed to choose the modality of their course instruction for the Fall 2021 semester. This will help mitigate transmission risk of COVID-19, specifically of the highly infectious/easily transmissible and deadly Delta variant which is currently prevalent in the United States. Faculty are deeply concerned that the layered prevention strategies recommended by the CDC for institutions of higher education have not been implemented consistently at Howard University. This includes, but is not limited to, requiring all faculty, staff, and students to be fully vaccinated, conducting meetings virtually to the extent possible, mandating physical/social distancing, and using outdoor air to ventilate indoor meeting spaces. The campus cannot be considered fully vaccinated since faculty and staff are not required to receive their second dose of vaccines until October 1, 2021, well after classes start in August. Furthermore, only sixty-three percent of registered students have provided proof of vaccination as of August 12, 2021. In addition, proper pandemic protocols have not been fully developed and/or communicated effectively to faculty, staff, and students. Current information on the Delta variant of COVID-19 shows increased hospitalization rates among unvaccinated people and increased breakthrough infection even among vaccinated people. Finally, it must be noted that many faculty members fall in high risk categories as defined by the CDC and by Howard University's Covid-19 guiding principles. The principles also state that the University is making accommodations for faculty to teach remotely, which is why faculty should be explicitly given the option to choose their course modality, especially if they meet any of the age or medical criteria provided by the University:

"The University is making accommodations for faculty, staff, and students who are in high-risk groups, to teach, work and attend classes and, where feasible, work remotely even after the District's policies and guidance allow a return to the campus. Following CDC guidance, these groups may include, but are not limited to individuals with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious health conditions, immunocompromised conditions, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and liver disease and those who are over the age of 65."

Zoom details:

Topic: HU Faculty Senate Emergency Call Meeting

Time: Aug 20, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81111835735?pwd=VFN4eXc2UU1KOTJlVjV1aGU2ZkVydz09>

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