

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

August 26, 2021

Wayne Frederick, M.D.  
President  
Howard University  
Washington DC 20059

Dear Dr. Frederick,

The August 25, 2021 communication from Provost Wutoh to the HU community clearly demonstrates your administration's lack of preparedness for campus reopening.

According to his message, efforts are finally underway to implement protocols that University stakeholders were informed would be in place before the campus reopened. These protocols are designed to safeguard students, faculty, and staff during this pandemic that has disproportionately impacted Black communities.

We wish to point out glaring inconsistencies in what your administration has claimed and where the University stands today. In a communication to faculty members on July 15, 2021, Provost Wutoh stated:

**“All students who will be on campus for any reason will be required to be fully vaccinated effective August 1, 2021.”**

In his communication on August 25, 2021, Provost Wutoh presented contradictory information:

“Our vaccination rates continue to climb. For students, we have received proof of COVID-19 vaccination or approved exemptions from over 63 percent of students.”

More than three weeks after (faculty were reassured that) all students on campus would be vaccinated, we are now being informed that less than two-thirds of the student body have actually been vaccinated or granted exemptions. Clearly, Howard University is nowhere near being a Covid-free campus.



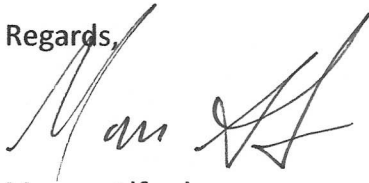
In his letter, Provost Wutoh also announced belated plans to start:

- verifying that everyone on campus has used BisonSafe symptom monitoring;
- providing weekly Covid-19 testing for all faculty, staff, and students;
- enforcing the campus-wide mask mandate;
- implementing CDC-recommended social distancing in academic buildings, classrooms, and other campus facilities.

Furthermore, the letter states that additional air purifiers are “awaiting delivery” (sic) but we have no information on when the air purifiers will be installed/operational. The failure to install air purifiers in classrooms *before* the start of the academic year shows a serious lack of planning.

The information above demonstrates that the lives of students, faculty, and staff are being put at risk due to your administration’s poor preparation. We recommend an emergency pivot so that faculty members have the option to conduct online instruction until the campus is fully prepared for in-person instruction.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus Alfred". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Marcus" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Alfred".

Marcus Alfred  
Chair, HU Faculty Senate

Cc: Dr. Anthony K. Wutoh, Provost  
Dr. Laurence C. Morse, Chair Howard University Board of Trustees