



DATE: February 24, 2022
FROM: Academic Senate Executive Committee
TO: Academic Senate
CC:
SUBJECT: Recommendation to suspend the 75% face-to-face requirement

During the Quasi-Meeting of the Whole on February 15, 2022, the Academic Senate charged the Academic Senate Executive Committee to draft a proposal to temporarily suspend the 75% face-to-face teaching requirement for the remainder of the Spring 2022 semester. Specifically, the recommendation is to suspend the Faculty Handbook's requirement in "Course Components and Instruction Modes" (Chapter IV) that "In a face-to-face instruction mode, students meet with an instructor physically present in a contained, university-assigned class time and physical space for at least 75% of the instruction provided." Instead, for the Spring 2022 semester only and starting with the adoption of this recommendation, the Senate recommends that at least 50% of the instruction be provided as described in the policy. This would mean that up to but no more than 50% of the class meetings could be in a mode other than face-to-face which will afford more flexibility for effective teaching and learning this semester. For example, this would permit face-to-face classes to be hybrid for the rest of the semester for instructors who, based on the content of their course and the pedagogy they employ, feel that they can effectively accommodate and engage both in-person and remote students in a hybrid course. This would also enable faculty to shift their course between in-person and remote throughout the term to accommodate health concerns due to COVID exposures to both faculty and students."

Instructors already have the prerogative to meet in other modes for up to a quarter of the class meetings scheduled in the face-to-face mode. We trust faculty to exercise this latitude professionally. There are many reasons to increase this flexibility to up to 50% of the class meetings for just this semester. These include the concern that some students are not ready to return to the classroom. These students have made their fears known to instructors via email, in conversations with campus counselors, and by their lack of attendance since in-person instruction resumed on February 14. There are also students who desire to meet face-to-face and if a minimum of 50% of classes are face-to-face, their needs would be met, too. There are also faculty who are happy to return to class and those concerned about resuming face-to-face instruction. Both students and faculty are at higher risk in classrooms, where masks and recycled air may not be 100% effective, than they would be if they were not meeting face-to-face. Some students and faculty have co-morbidities or live with those who do. Such students and faculty are loath to put their loved ones at risk. The ability to meet remotely beyond the 25% would decrease the need to be on campus or in a classroom but not eliminate it. Students and faculty would still be on campus half of the time. Up to a fifty-fifty split from this point on can be viewed as a reasonable compromise and could achieve the goals of both returning students and faculty to the campus, while providing faculty with the latitude, should they choose it, of having some of their classes taught remotely.

1 COURSE COMPONENTS AND INSTRUCTION MODES – TEMPORARY REVISION

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3 FOR THE SPRING 2022 SEMESTER ONLY AND STARTING WITH THE ADOPTION OF THIS
4 RECOMMENDATION, AT LEAST 50%, RATHER THAN 75% OF THE INSTRUCTION BE PROVIDED
5 AS DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING POLICY:

6 “IN A FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION MODE, STUDENTS MEET WITH AN INSTRUCTOR
7 PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN A CONTAINED, UNIVERSITY-ASSIGNED CLASS TIME AND PHYSICAL
8 SPACE FOR AT LEAST 75% OF THE INSTRUCTION PROVIDED.” (“COURSE COMPONENTS AND
9 INSTRUCTION MODES”, FACULTY HANDBOOK, CHAPTER IV).