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**Date:** September 20, 2021

**To:** Talia Bettcher  
Chair, Academic Senate

**From:** Heidi Riggio  
Chair, Faculty Policy Committee (FPC)

**Copies:** T. Bettcher, V. Salcido, R. Roquemore, J. Lazo-Uy, A. Avramchuk

**Subject:** **Support of Flexibility for Faculty and Students in Mode of Instruction for Spring, 2022**

Faculty Policy Committee (FPC) has ongoing and growing concerns about scheduling for Spring 2022 at Cal State LA. Faculty members have voiced concerns about the “100% face-to-face mandate” that is currently facing the CSU and Cal State LA regarding classes in Spring, 2022. First, the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging, with over 1,000 to 1,500 new cases diagnosed per day in Los Angeles County (<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/data/index.htm>). The future is always uncertain in the world’s experience with this virus; any assertion that COVID-19 will not be a threat in face-to-face instruction and any group gatherings in the near future is highly questionable. Second, there is clear evidence that while the vaccines are highly effective in preventing being infected and dying from COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>), it is also clear that even vaccinated people can be infected and can spread the virus (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html#:~:text=%E2%80%A2%20Fully%20vaccinated%20people%20with,the%20virus%20to%20others.>). The danger is obviously especially serious for people who are immunocompromised or not vaccinated, including children. Growing numbers of children are testing positive for COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7036e2.htm>); it is grossly unfair and possibly reckless to expose students and faculty with children living in their homes to COVID-19 by insisting on face-to-face meetings, when the virus is clearly not controlled and is still a real danger to all of us, vaccinated or not. Third, while not optimal, we have functioned well during this pandemic, with everyone working hard to adapt to virtual teaching and learning. We are only getting better at this and cutting off the 100% safeguard of remote teaching which allows zero probability of infection during a continuing pandemic is dismaying to say the least.

We recognize the importance of face-to-face meetings, especially for engaging our new and beginning students. It is a joy to be part of a vibrant, alive campus community for all involved, including faculty, staff, administrators, and our students. It is not tenable however, to insist on 100% face-to-face instruction while this virus is still killing people. We are requesting that Cal State LA administration acknowledge that faculty must be allowed flexibility in delivery of instruction in Spring, 2022, especially changing face-to-face instruction to virtual/remote synchronous teaching as needed. We thank you for your time and consideration.