

MEMO

DATE: September 1, 2020

TO: Jessica Summers
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Joe Gerald
Senator, Public Health

RE: Senate Resolution / The Safe Re-Opening of the University's Physical Campus during the Covid-19 pandemic

On August 5, the Faculty Senate passed the *Safe Re-Opening of the University's Physical Campus during the Covid-19 Pandemic* resolution 47 – 0 – 2. This resolution called for the University to develop, periodically revise, and make publicly available the criteria used to decide when transitions between the phases of pandemic operation are warranted. Furthermore, it called for these criteria and decisions to be made using the principles of shared governance. I wanted to provide you an update on progress towards these goals.

The University has since convened an advisory work-group, the Public Health Advisory Coronavirus Team (PHACT) to develop and monitor critical Covid-19 metrics and make recommendations regarding the University's coronavirus response. This team is comprised of the following members (*Co-Chairs):

Safe Return to University Workplace (SWRT) Re-entry Team

*Dr. Stephanie Griffin, Certified Industrial Hygienist
Mr. Steve Holland, Chief Risk Officer
Ms. Maggie Murphy, Research Safety Specialist, MPH Student

Public Health / BIO 5 Faculty

Dr. Paloma Beamer, Exposure scientist, Engineer
Dr. Kate Ellingson, Epidemiologist
*Dr. Kacey Ernst, Epidemiologist
Dr. Joe Gerald, Health Policy
Dr. Bonnie LaFleur, Biostatistician
Dr. Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Epidemiologist
Mr. Ferris Ramadan, Epidemiology-Biostatistics graduate student

Clinical Advisory Team

Dr. Terry Cullen, Pima County Health Department
Dr. Bruce Helming, Campus Health Service
Dr. Jim Knepler, COM Pulmonary Critical Care
Dr. Jamilah Shubeilat, COM Infectious Diseases

Additional Stakeholders

Amy Glicken, Data Dashboard liaison

Chris Pastore, Office of General Counsel

Lori Shultz, RII

Dr. Jeff Silvertooth, Cooperative Extension

Dr. Sara Wieland, Distance Education

PHACT meets weekly with University administration, including President Robbins and Provost Folks, and the Covid-19 Incident Command System, including Dr. Richard Carmona. During these briefings, PHACT has made material contributions to the University's pandemic response including helping to develop relevant metrics and to make decisions regarding re-opening of the University's physical campus.

University administration and the ICS team have been responsive to recommendations that have emerged from PHACT such that faculty have had a voice in the key decisions related to the Covid-19 pandemic response. **In this regard, the Faculty Senate resolution passed on August 5th has been an unqualified success.**