

**BILL TO:** Student Senate  
**FROM:** Gavin McElroy, College of Liberal Arts  
**RE:** Consistency and Accountability for Fall 2021 Academics  
**DATE:**  
**PSSR:** 21-0419-01

### **Consistency and Accountability for Fall 2021 Academics**

**WHEREAS,** Auburn University’s “A Healthier U” states that “the added stresses of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic often can lead to depression, loneliness, and other mental health issues”; and,

**WHEREAS,** increased isolation due to reduced face-to-face interaction during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters exacerbates these challenging mental health issues, especially for students “adjusting to being on their own for the first time, living in a new city or facing the challenges of keeping pace with elite academic programs” like those present at Auburn University; and,

**WHEREAS,** in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021 many of the numerous Auburn University academic classes were unilaterally moved from the modality of Face to Face to a virtual modality; and,

**WHEREAS,** in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021 most Alabama high schools safely returned to Face to Face classroom instruction with effective protocols in place similar to Auburn University protocols; and,

**WHEREAS,** in a Fall 2020 Student Government Association (SGA) Auburn Answers poll 72.5% of the 58 respondents stated that there has been an increased workload in their virtual classes over what they would expect in a Face to Face class; and,

**WHEREAS,** SGA Senate office hours, student discussions and Auburn Answers submissions have indicated that many Auburn University Face to Face Flexible classes shifted between the modalities of Face to Face, Online Synchronous, and Online Asynchronous numerous times throughout the course of the semester, resulting in confusion in many students regarding their attendance; and,

**WHEREAS,** SGA Senate office hours, student discussions and Auburn Answers submissions have indicated students having significant issues regarding consistent class meeting times, instructor office hours, online exams scheduled outside of the designated class time, and assignment predictability/deadlines for classes that were unilaterally moved from Face to Face into a virtual modality; and,

**WHEREAS,** peer institutions including but not limited to the Universities of Florida, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama have officially announced plans to transition to near or normal or traditional operations and in person instruction for academic classes in Fall 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Auburn University Office of the Registrar has outlined the instructional methods for Fall 2021 Auburn University academic classes as Campus, Online Asynchronous, and Online Synchronous with no Face to Face Flexible or Blended instructional modalities listed; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to data updated April 1, 2021, the Alabama Department of Public Health has designated Lee County as Low Risk on its COVID-19 Risk Indicator; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to data updated April 1, 2021 from the Alabama Department of Public Health, Lee County is meeting its testing goals with 32.05% of Lee County's population having already received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of March 26, 2021 the East Alabama Medical Center has administered 62,192 COVID-19 vaccinations; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to the Auburn University COVID-19 Resource Center students at Auburn University have not registered a positivity rate of above 0.2% for the COVID-19 virus through the sentinel testing program in any week subsequent to February 7, 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to Auburn University's COVID-19 Resource Center data from March 29, 2021, Auburn University "is expected to receive enough vaccine doses for the entire campus community" with 6,616 first doses and 5,260 second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine having already been administered.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, we, the Auburn University Student Senate, ask that Face to Face/Campus classes return as the standard Fall 2021 instructional modality and that no classes be unilaterally moved from Face to Face to a virtual modality without an imminent threat to student and faculty safety; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, we, the Auburn University Student Senate, ask that in the event a Face to Face/Campus class is moved to a virtual modality that the same uniformity be kept for class meeting times, test times, office hours, and the workload assigned by the instructor as they would have been in a Face to Face/Campus modality; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, we, the Auburn University Student Senate, ask that, in the event a Face to Face/Campus class is moved to a virtual modality, ~~that~~ all classes are taught "live" over Zoom **or a teaching method that best meets the learning outcomes for a course and not prerecorded** in order to preserve student interaction and as the Auburn Creed reads, "the human touch."

**CC:** **Dr. Bill Hardgrave**, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
**Dr. Norman Godwin**, Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness  
**Dr. Don Mulvaney**, University Senate Chair and Associate Professor  
**Dr. Fred Kam**, Director of the Auburn University Medical Clinic

**BILL TO:** Student Senate  
**FROM:** Mary Logan Sefton, School of Nursing  
**RE:** Commendation of Auburn University School of Nursing  
**DATE:**  
**PSSC:** 21-0419-01

**Commendation of Auburn University School of Nursing**

**WHEREAS,** Auburn University as a whole has sought to implement interventions to manage COVID-19 through testing and vaccinations, and the Auburn University School of Nursing has partnered with the efforts of the University to promote the health and safety of Auburn University faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of the Lee County community; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Auburn University School of Nursing has partnered with the University to provide COVID-19 testing through the Sentinel Testing Program, in efforts to collect data to best protect the health of the faculty, staff, and students of Auburn University; and,

**WHEREAS,** the School of Nursing also partnered with community nurses to execute the University's phased protocol for the administration of vaccines at the Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum; and,

**WHEREAS,** as of March 29, 2021, Auburn University had administered 13,900 COVID-19 vaccines to faculty, staff, and students; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Auburn University School of Nursing partnered with the East Alabama Medical Center to provide COVID-19 vaccines to members of the Lee County community, with each nursing student administering approximately eighty to one-hundred vaccines a day.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT,** we, the Auburn University Student Senate, commend the Auburn University School of Nursing for their contributions in keeping Auburn University and the Lee County community safe and healthy.

**CC:** Gregg Neschwander, Dean of Auburn University School of Nursing  
Caralise Hunt, Associate Dean of Auburn University School of Nursing  
Hopewell Carroll, Clinical Director of Auburn University School of Nursing  
Fred Kam, M.D., Medical Director of the Auburn University Medical Clinic