

A Resolution of the Bowling Green State University Faculty Senate

Title: Resolution on Conducting Faculty Senate Meetings Remotely

Presented on: July 7, 2020

By: Gene Trantham

On behalf of: Senate Executive Committee.

WHEREAS Bowling Green State University students, faculty, and staff have been teaching, learning, working, and meeting remotely since Spring Break 2020; (1)

AND WHEREAS all business of the Faculty Senate and its related standing committees, ad hoc committees, and working groups has been conducted using online collaboration tools and virtual meeting platforms since transitioning to a remote environment; (2)

AND WHEREAS members of the University Community have become not only more familiar but also more proficient with the tools, technology, and techniques of online and remote meeting and collaboration; (3)

AND WHEREAS the university plans to continue its investment in and support of online and remote technologies; (4)

AND WHEREAS, according to the [World Health Organization](#), there have been more than 2.6 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States with, on average, more than 35,000 new cases per day ($M = 37,577$, $SD = 6.580$, over the ten days from Jun 23 to Jul 2), which have resulted in more than 127,000 deaths; (5)

AND WHEREAS “the onset and duration of viral shedding and the period of infectiousness for COVID-19 are not yet known” (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>) but evidence suggests that pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic persons may be able to transmit COVID-19 to others; (6)

AND WHEREAS the appropriate use of facial coverings, maintaining a physical distance of six feet or more from others, and frequent handwashing is known to reduce but not eliminate the risk of community transmission of COVID-19; (7)

AND WHEREAS BGSU has committed to minimizing health risks to members of the University Community and protecting the health and safety of faculty, staff, and students; (8)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that all work and all meetings of the Faculty Senate, of Faculty Senate Standing Committees, and of ad hoc committees and working groups established and charged by the Faculty Senate or by the SEC (henceforth collectively referred to as Faculty Senate Work) shall be conducted remotely using WebEx, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Jabber, or any other appropriate University-supported online collaboration tools and remote meeting platforms; (9)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee on amendments and Bylaws (A&B) shall review the Academic Charter to identify language in the charter that is inconsistent with online collaboration or remote meetings and recommend the changes in that language that are necessary to bring the Charter into alignment with the online and remote conduct of Faculty Senate Work; (10)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these changes shall be considered Editorial Changes as defined (11)
in Part (A), Article (14), Section (b) of the [Academic Charter](#), and shall be approved by the SEC as
described in that section of the Charter;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Faculty Senate Work will continue to be conducted remotely (12)
until a simple majority of those present and voting at a Senate Meeting (as defined in Part (A),
Article (4), Section (d)(i) of the [Academic Charter](#)) indicate that such precautions are no longer
necessary;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SEC shall reevaluate the continued necessity of the (13)
precautions described in this resolution toward the end of each academic semester and shall make
a recommendation to the full Senate that these precautions be either continued or ceased on
which the Senate shall vote during its final regularly scheduled meeting of the semester.