

A Resolution of the Bowling Green State University Faculty Senate

Title: Resolution on Holding Class Meetings During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Presented on: July 7, 2020

By: Christopher Frey

On behalf of: Senate Executive Committee.

WHEREAS Bowling Green State University (BGSU) students, faculty, staff, and administrators have (1)
been teaching, learning, working, and meeting remotely since March 2020 due to the novel
coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) [remains in community spread in Ohio](#), with 1301 (2)
new cases on July 2, 2020, more than quadruple the 300 cases reported in June 14, 2020;

AND WHEREAS as of July 1, 2020, the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) remains in community spread (3)
in Wood County, with [421 total cases and 51 fatalities](#), a mortality rate of 12.1%;

AND WHEREAS Black, Latinx and Native staff, students ,and their family/household members, and (4)
people with disabilities are at [demonstrably greater risk of Covid-19](#);

AND WHEREAS adjunct faculty do not receive University medical insurance; (5)

AND WHEREAS the United States currently has the highest number of fatalities and active Covid- (6)
19 cases in the world;

AND WHEREAS the [New England Journal of Medicine reported](#) in June, 2020 that Covid-19 (7)
diagnostic tests result in high rates of false negatives (11-40%), increasing the likelihood of
asymptomatic viral spread;

AND WHEREAS asymptomatic cases are likely among traditional student-age populations (18-22) (8)
who are less at risk from Covid-19, and thus may not meet the conditions for university-required
testing or quarantine;

AND WHEREAS students, faculty and staff will be returning to campus without a requirement to (9)
show a negative Covid-19 test, without a requirement to quarantine upon return to campus, and
without a university-established testing protocol;

AND WHEREAS high risk environments including bars remain open in Bowling Green; (10)

AND WHEREAS BGSU students and employees may travel to and from the BGSU campus without (11)
tracing or restrictions;

AND WHEREAS there are currently no effective treatments nor a vaccine for Covid-19; (12)

AND WHEREAS classrooms and other enclosed spaces used repeatedly during the day pose “more (13)
risk” for transmission of Covid-19, [according to the US Centers for Disease Control](#);

AND WHEREAS the University has affirmed that students may decide to attend classes through (14)
face-to-face classrooms, synchronous remote, and asynchronous online modes during the Covid-
19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Faculty Senate “reaffirms the present practice which places the primary responsibility for the classroom environment with the instructor” (Part (D), Article (2), Section (f) of the [Academic Charter](#)). (15)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Bowling Green State University Faculty Senate supports the decision of any instructor at the University, including adjunct and graduate student instructors, to hold classes in remote (synchronous) mode at their discretion based on their individual evaluations of the risks associated with teaching inside a classroom, studio, lab or other enclosed space; (16)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision to move a face-to-face class to remote (synchronous) delivery shall not impact student or other formal evaluations; nor shall this decision impact future assistantships or employment with the University; (17)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that instructors who choose to move instruction to remote (synchronous) teaching shall inform their school directors/department chairs of their decision. (18)