

A Resolution on Academic Advising Restructuring

1. Student academic advising by faculty in their major is an issue of academic programming. As such, faculty (specifically through the Faculty Senate and its Standing Committees) must be involved in any and all decisions relating to the structure of advising at UWG as per established shared governance practices.
2. Academic advising does not have to be conducted the same way for every program on campus. Individual programs should be able to select the advising model that best fits their students' needs.
3. Any changes to academic advising must be vetted in collaboration among Academic Affairs, the Faculty Senate (specifically APC), and the affected academic programs.
4. The Faculty Senate requests that the Office of Academic Affairs rescind its unilateral changes to academic advisement procedures in order to first engage with relevant stakeholders, through the established shared governance channels, in formulating a mutually agreed upon solution benefitting the students in the affected programs.

Approved by the Faculty Senate on September 10, 2021

Figure 5

Petition to the USG for a Change in COVID Policy

Because of the urgent priority of protecting the health and lives of all members of our university community – including students, faculty, and staff – the Faculty Senate of the University of West Georgia calls on the University System of Georgia to follow the COVID-19 health guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by either:

- 1) Implementing an indoor mask-wearing requirement and vaccine mandate for all eligible individuals across the university system; or
- 2) By allowing individual USG institutions, including the University of West Georgia, to do so on their own initiative.

Resolution on Campus COVID-Related Protocols at UWG

Because of the urgent priority of protecting the health and lives of all members of our university community – including students, faculty, and staff – the Faculty Senate of the University of West Georgia calls on the president and other members of the university administrative leadership to:

- 1) Adopt policies that give faculty who are caregivers for children or other dependents who are quarantining because of COVID or are experiencing illness the option to move their classes online in order to continue serving their students while also meeting their family obligations and protecting the health of everyone.
- 2) Give faculty the option to move their face-to-face classes online in order to better serve students who are not able to attend class because of illness or quarantine.
- 3) Give faculty the resources to accommodate students in their classes who are unable to attend a face-to-face or hybrid class because of illness or a COVID quarantine. The Faculty Senate and its committees would welcome the opportunity for further conversation with the administration about revised policies that might help both faculty and students achieve class instructional goals during this pandemic.
- 4) Gather data on vaccination rates across campus and post this information on the university website, along with up-to-date data on COVID infections.
- 5) Ensure that all campus meetings include a virtual option, so that risks of COVID exposure will not be unnecessarily exacerbated.
- 6) Provide free mask dispensers at the entrance to all buildings on campus, and place cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and wipes in all classrooms.

7) Update campus signage to reflect current USG policy that facial coverings are encouraged in all indoor areas.

8) Model compliance with the USG's statement that "everyone is encouraged to wear a mask or face covering while inside campus facilities" by wearing facial coverings at all indoor public gatherings and university meetings.

9) Issue statements about the importance of following the COVID prevention guidelines of the CDC – guidelines that include indoor mask-wearing in high-transmission regions, such as our own county and state.

10) Advocate for stronger COVID prevention policies from the USG, as well as funding for COVID testing and other mitigation efforts to reduce COVID community spread.