

Report of the University Council's Ad Hoc COVID-19 Response Committee

February 24, 2021

The charge of the CRC is to:

- To participate as a legislative stakeholder in the administration's discussions with active COVID task forces and committees by relaying COVID-related views and concerns of members of Council and its standing committees to the administration and collecting its responses.
- To report in writing directly to University Council members and its Executive Committee at least every 30 days on COVID-related status reports and policies.

This charge is interpreted as

- "Give Voice" – giving "voice to concerns" of students, staff and faculty
- "Listen" – be correctly informed about the efforts of the Preventative Measures Advisory Board and the Medical Oversight Task Force
- "Report" – report on the efforts and actions of task forces to University Council, Executive Committee and the standing committees.

To accomplish these goals, the 12 members of the CRC, representing the various constituencies within University Council, meet weekly while classes are in session to discuss input received and to determine strategies to inform the Administration about the concerns of the University community. Outreach by the committee includes a Qualtrics survey available to all (at this point, it has had more than 1800 responses), solicitation of concerns from UC standing committees, conversations with students, staff and faculty, email exchanges, plus attendance at meetings of representative groups around campus.

In addition, at our meetings we have had various guest speakers to better inform us about matters related to COVID on the UGA campus and in the broader community. Speakers have included

Dr. Brandy Burgess, Assistant Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Mark Ebell, Professor, College of Public Health
Dr. Ted Ross, Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine
Mr. Kelly Girtz, Mayor of Athens
Dean Lisa Nolan, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Savannah Hembree, UGA Staff Council President

We have met as a Committee with President Morehead, Provost Hu, VP of Instruction Shrivastav, and the leaders of the PMAB (Dean Lisa Nolan, Mr. John McCollum, and Dean Shelley Nuss) and the MOTF (Dr. Garth Russo, Dean Marsha Davis, Dean Lisa Nolan and Dean Shelley Nuss) on five occasions, including yesterday. The reports from these meetings are sent to the University via Archnews and are posted on the UGA University Council Committee page [October 19, November 23, December 14, January 19, and February 23]. In addition, Task Force leaders have been responsive to individual requests for assistance and information that we have shared from the University community.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with University Council and members of the UGA community to facilitate communication with the Administration and Task Force Leaders. We thank the Administration and the leaders of the Task Force for their time and willingness to dialogue about all areas of the University's response to the COVID crisis.