

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: B. Buldt
Chair, Executive Committee

DATE: 28 August 2020

SUBJ: Publicizing COVID-19 Statistics for Purdue University Fort Wayne

Resolution for Publicizing COVID-19 Statistics for Purdue University Fort Wayne

WHEREAS the University of Alabama released COVID-19 statistics only after its faculty senate passed a resolution similar to this one demanding university administration release these numbers; and,

WHEREAS having clear daily information about COVID-related health risks based on explicit population-level data (i.e., how many faculty/staff/students have positive tests, hospitalizations, and/or deaths) is essential for members of the campus and Fort Wayne communities to protect themselves; and,

WHEREAS Purdue University Fort Wayne, as of 4 Sep. 2020, has officially published statistics on its [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to faculty, staff, students, and members of the Fort Wayne community who interact with them on a daily basis; and,

WHEREAS the University's and Purdue System's Return Plans only anticipate closure if the Purdue Board of Trustees, the State of Indiana, or the Allen County Department of Health make those decisions for us; and,

WHEREAS Purdue University Fort Wayne has not publicly announced the threshold of COVID-19 spread (campus-wide positivity rate) we would use to determine a return to remote operations and/or remote learning, leaving members of the campus community uncertain, fearful, and unable to plan flexibly for possible outcomes in the Fall 2020 semester and beyond; and,

WHEREAS the University's and Purdue System's Return Plans lack specific details for a communication plan to notify faculty, staff, and students if they have come into contact with an infected person (e.g., if a student in a class has tested positive) so that we can make appropriate decisions regarding cancelling in-person class meetings, self-quarantining, remote work, etc.; and,

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Faculty of Purdue University Fort Wayne grants Voting Faculty powers to recommend policies concerning the "welfare... of the faculty," to make recommendations concerning "the planning of physical facilities," and "to present its views concerning any matter pertaining to the conduct and welfare of PFW;"

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Wayne Senate commends the University for disseminating health statistics through its [COVID-19 Dashboard](#); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fort Wayne Senate requests for the University administration, the PFW Prepared Team, and the Purdue University Board of Trustees to take the following additional actions:

- Coordinate with state and local health agencies to arrange for a neutral third party as an additional self-reporting option that can ensure confidentiality and anonymity for those who do not wish to self-report to the University; and that can allow faculty, staff, and others who may have visited campus to self-report cases of infections without reporting directly to the University;
- Work with state and local officials to ensure that the online platform continues to report only aggregated and anonymous infection rates among faculty, students, staff, and others on campus in a manner that does not disclose any personally identifiable information for any one individual;
- Continue to update this platform at least weekly as the results of each self-reported test and tests of symptomatic individuals become available;
- Provide specific information about contact tracing operations at the University and within the Purdue System, including but not limited to the number of contact tracers dedicated to tracing each occurrence on campus; what specifically will be deemed to constitute “exposure” to the virus and how that information will be systematically collected; and the methods that will be used to notify members of the campus community of possible COVID exposure;
- Establish and disseminate to all members of the campus community a clear designation of the multiple factors that the University will use to determine actions as each campus, including the Fort Wayne campus, reaches different thresholds of COVID-19 community spread, both across the University generally and within specific classes, housing units, student groups, or other constituencies of the campus. The University will publicize this information, in addition to its [COVID-19 Dashboard](#), in multiple easy-to-find venues, including press releases, social media platforms, and email.