

## **Resolution for the Faculty Senate Regarding Additional Covid-19 Safety Policies**

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has killed over 600,000 Americans and millions abroad, caused chronic symptoms for others, and caused severe economic disruption; and,

**WHEREAS**, thousands of UofSC students, faculty, and staff have become infected with Covid-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, vaccine uptake in South Carolina has fallen far short of herd immunity levels recommended by medical experts; and,

**WHEREAS**, vaccine uptake in South Carolina among the young has been particularly low, with (as of May 29, 2021) SCDHEC reporting that fewer than 16,000 South Carolinians aged 20-24 have gotten at least one dose of vaccine; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University has reported that over 100 members of the University community have already been infected multiple times; and,

**WHEREAS**, many students, faculty, and staff have underlying medical conditions or have repeated close contact with those who do; and

**WHEREAS**, all students, faculty, and staff are entitled to a safe learning environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, many other universities have announced stringent safety policies for 2021-22, up to and including requiring the vaccine for all,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faculty Senate recommends to President Pastides, Provost Tate, Incoming Provost Cutler, and the Board of Trustees that the University of South Carolina adopt additional safety measures including or similar to the following:

(1) A mask requirement in all academic buildings, to come into force if a significant number of new Covid cases are recorded on campus, or if other epidemiological considerations warrant;

(2) At their option, faculty and staff may require masks in their offices, students living in University housing may require masks of guests in their rooms, and organizers of extracurricular activities may require masks at these activities;

(3) Vaccinated students living in University housing may request to live with roommates who have also been vaccinated; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Faculty Senate requests an ongoing role in University decision making concerning the pandemic; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Faculty Senate commends the University's outstanding efforts to make Covid-19 vaccination available, convenient, and pleasant for all members of the University community, and urges that these efforts continue.

