

**CRC Meeting with President Morehead, Task Force Leaders  
26 July 2021**

**Important Note: The COVID-19 situation is dynamic and changes are happening at a rapid pace. The information shared in the report related to COVID-19 and the University System policies was accurate as of Monday 26 July. We encourage you to watch for and read COVID-related Archnews announcements (<https://coronavirus.uga.edu/campus-messages/>, in particular July 12 and August 2) and to check the [CDC Web site](#) for the most current information related to COVID-19.**

The meeting was convened at 10 a.m.

In Attendance:

President Jere Morehead

Medical Oversight Task Force (MOTF)

- Dr. Shelley Nuss, Dean, AU/UGA Medical Partnership
- Ms. Jennifer Swails, Interim Executive Director, University Health Center
- Dr. Marsha Davis, Dean, College of Public Health
- Dr. Lisa Nolan, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Preventative Measures Advisory Board (PMAB) co-chairs

- Dr. Lisa Nolan, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Mr. John McCollum, Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety

Dr. Rahul Shrivastav, Vice President of Instruction

Dr. Kyle Tschepikow, Assistant to the President

COVID Response Committee

Co-Chair Janette Hill, Professor, Learning, Design, & Technology, Mary Frances Early College of Education	Co-Chair Annette Poulsen, Professor, Sterne Chair of Banking & Finance, Terry College of Business
Secretary Stuart Ivy, Senior IT Manager	Don DeMaria, Director, Washington Semester Program
Paula Krimer, Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine	Bill Lanzilotta, Associate Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Franklin Arts & Sciences
Christine Scartz, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Law	Kari K Turner, Associate Professor, Animal & Dairy Science, College of Agricultural & Environmental Science
TBD, Undergraduate Student Representative	Alejandra Villegas, Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Student Association
Janet Westpheling, Professor, Genetics, Franklin Arts & Sciences	Beth Woods, Executive Director for IT, Franklin Arts & Sciences

## Meeting Summary

After the meeting was convened by **Co-Chair Janette Hill**, **President Morehead** was invited to share introductory remarks. He pointed out that UGA is now in a significant campaign through social media and other means to persuade everyone on campus to be vaccinated. Through discretionary funds donated to the President's office, he is offering new incentives including gift cards and t-shirts to encourage vaccinations. Given the prominence of the Delta variant, he hopes that these incentives will cause individuals to reconsider their hesitancy to be vaccinated. Anything that anyone can do, individually or collectively, to encourage vaccinations is critically important.

**Co-Chair Janette Hill** shared information about concerns and questions from the university community that were gathered from the CRC survey, emails, and shared directly with individual members of the committee. The data indicate that areas of greatest concern focus on safety and preventative measures on campus, including the lack of mandatory vaccinations, masking, or testing, and no requirement for social distancing as directed by the University System of Georgia. Many of the faculty, staff, and students in the UGA community have expressed apprehension about the opening of fall semester without these critical mitigation measures in place, particularly in light of the COVID-19 Delta variant and low vaccination rates on campus and in the Athens community.

**President Morehead** indicated that he has raised the concerns of the UGA community with USG and that he is in continuing conversations with Acting Chancellor Ms. Teresa MacCartney, who is discussing these issues with Georgia Public Health Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey.

**Co-Chair Janette Hill and other members of the CRC** then shared specific areas of discussion from the university community. A summary of the areas covered and information provided are included below.

## Vaccinations and Testing

- Vaccinations are currently available at the University Health Center. Vaccinations will also be available at sites on campus, including the Tate Center, to reach as many individuals as possible. It was shared that the plans are flexible and locations may change depending on needs.
- Boosters will be available and provided by UHC when recommended by health authorities.
- Testing free of charge will continue for the university community at the University Health Center. Similar to vaccinations, continuous review will occur and other testing sites will be developed as conditions warrant.

## Safety and Preventative Measures

- The Preventative Measures Advisory Board (PMAB) is inactive now but available on-call as needed. Questions related to the environmental concerns (e.g., classes that require close contact) can be sent to Environmental Safety [706-542-5801, <https://esd.uga.edu/>].
- HVAC systems are being upgraded as needed/possible across campus. The [interactive map](#) from Facilities Management indicates active projects. The map is updated as work is completed. Throughout the spring and summer of 2021, filter changes and many upgrades were made. Projects that require more time and resources are beginning now. It is important to note that even though a building is not marked as active on the map doesn't mean that upgrade work is not planned. Upcoming projects that need more time to address will be indicated as the projects begin. The map will continue to be updated as work on the HVAC systems continues.

- Requests for workplace accommodations should be submitted to Human Resources for faculty and staff [706-542-2222, [hrweb@uga.edu](mailto:hrweb@uga.edu), <https://hr.uga.edu>]. Students should contact Disability Resource Center [706-542-8719, [drc@uga.edu](mailto:drc@uga.edu), <https://drc.uga.edu>] for instructional accommodations.
- Telebehavioral health services are available for students at UHC and will be continued in 2021-2022 [706-542-1162, [contact@uhs.uga.edu](mailto:contact@uhs.uga.edu), <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/tao/therapy>]. Faculty and staff can also access resources through Kepro [844-243-4440].
- There are currently no plans for mandatory or random testing.
- Conversations about sewage surveillance are on-going. The Provost is meeting with faculty in the College of Public Health about continuing this work in the coming academic year.
- Dawg Check will be operational in the fall as a mandatory place to report positive COVID test results by faculty, staff, and students. Faculty and teaching assistants will be notified of students who test positive for COVID-19.
- Members of the university community should not ask about another person's vaccination status, should not differentiate between individuals on the basis of vaccination status, and may not discriminate based on vaccination status.
- As of now, faculty and staff cannot ask anyone to wear a mask anywhere on campus. However, faculty can provide messaging to encourage safety measures (e.g., wearing masks, getting vaccinated).
  - Important note: As per the Archnews announcement on August 2, 2021, *all individuals* are now "encouraged" to wear face coverings when inside.

## Instruction

- Faculty have the same level of independence in teaching practices as before the pandemic. Faculty control attendance policy and pedagogy. The syllabus and material covered are under faculty control.
- Faculty are not allowed to switch their course to online unless the course is so designated.
- Faculty are encouraged to make expectations for students very clear in the syllabus and during the first week of class, including, but not limited to how to accommodate issues related to COVID such as missing class for illness or quarantining.
- Faculty can have office hours in alternative spaces, such as a large indoor space or outdoors. It must be the same for all students, masked or not masked.
- Classroom technology continues to be enhanced and faculty are encouraged to use the technology that works for their classes.

**Closing Remarks** were shared by several attending the meeting, including

- *The situation is evolving by the minute. We've got to buckle down and do our best and still practice the right things. You can voluntarily mask, you can hand wash, you can follow all the practices that can help keep the campus safe.*
- *We want to do whatever we can do to protect our students, staff and faculty.*
- *We are focused on getting the unvaccinated vaccinated. That has to be our biggest effort right now.*
- *The best thing anybody can do for themselves and the university community is to get vaccinated.*