

Issues related to faculty and covid-19 preparedness for spring 2021

Prepared by the Senate Executive Committee for discussion in the Special session of Auburn University Faculty, Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

This list was prepared by the Senate Executive Committee as a compilation of issues articulated during the General Faculty meeting of October 27, 2020, orally, on sli.do, and in the zoom chat. In addition, the Executive Committee reached out for input from faculty representatives on the COVID operations committee and the Covid-19 Resource center to ask what issues have been brought to their attention by faculty in regards to planning for the spring. The Executive Committee is keen that faculty have a chance to discuss all issues and concerns, and we look forward to listening to suggestions for productive paths to solutions to the challenges we all face together.

The Executive Committee intends this list to supplement and complement those represented in the AAUP report and its recommendations, as those are limited by the American Association of University Professors' focus on "academic freedom and shared governance, equity, transparency, and the right to privacy." In order to avoid confusion, and for no other reason, issues brought up in the AAUP report will not be duplicated here. Everything contained in the AAUP report will be up for discussion, and the AAUP resolutions contained in it will be voted on, in the Special Meeting on November 10, 2020. The Executive Committee will place a separate report on the agenda for approval in the Senate meeting on November 17, 2020, based on the list below and whatever other issues emerge during the Special session that are not already covered by the AAUP report.

The Senate Executive Committee wishes to assure the faculty that it has already raised the overwhelming majority of the issues below directly with the administration in meetings through the semester (including testing, mask-wearing, classroom capacity caps, classroom technology issues, attendance and recording concerns, and issues of progress towards P&T). Your thoughts and suggestions will help us continue to represent faculty thoughts, concerns, and solutions as strongly as possible.

Campus issues:

- modes of testing, the operation of testing, and the reliability and communication of university covid-19 data;
- the management of quarantine and isolation accommodations;
- crowding and mask-wearing in corridors and other public spaces;
- requirements that non-teaching faculty (e.g. extension specialists) return to campus for work.

Teaching issues:

- limiting classroom capacities, especially in regard to fixed-seat lecture halls and large lecture classes;
- managing close-contact in-person instruction;
- classroom technology;
- possible changes to the academic calendar for spring 2021;
- class attendance / recording policies.

Travel issues:

- sharing housing facilities and vehicles on field trips and surveys;
- university restrictions on domestic and international travel.

Professional issues:

- impact on progress towards promotion and tenure (especially for faculty with young families and notably female faculty).