

**From:** UCCS Faculty Assembly List <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, September 06, 2021 1:51 PM

**To:** FA-I <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu>

**Subject:** [FA-I]September President's Report

Here we are. It's Labor Day. The frenzy of getting students on campus and classes started is behind us. We can, I think, begin to see what this still-pandemic semester might look like.

**Masking seems to be going as well as we could hope** (I hope that's your experience). There has been an issue in housing and dining, including some disciplinary referrals to the dean of students, but reminders and mask provision seem to be increasing compliance. There are reports of reluctant-to-mask students in classrooms, but as of the end of last week only one disciplinary referral. **I have attached Provost Klebe's e-mail about face coverings.**

Kelli's second e-mail, about **COVID in classes, is also attached. Be sure you read to the end** (below her signature) **for the most detailed explanation of what's expected (and not expected) of faculty.** There is no reason to think COVID cases will disappear, or rise dramatically, any time soon, which means **we can expect contact tracing to continue to identify classes that have been attended by an infected student. If everyone is masked, there is little reason to think those who are vaccinated, faculty or students, are at any appreciable risk of infection.** So far, **there haven't even been cases among unvaccinated students traced to a classroom exposure,** going all the way back to last spring. Masks dramatically slow the spread of even the Delta variant.

The most immediate pandemic issue on the horizon is the **30% of students who have not yet submitted an attestation. Efforts are underway to reduce that number and the faculty assembly executive committee is actively pressing to accelerate those.** The good news there is that, even as more and more students submit attestations, **the percentage unvaccinated remains below 20%.**

But enough of the pandemic...he says wistfully.

**The first Faculty Representative Assembly meeting of the academic year is Friday, September 10.** That will also be **the fall full Faculty Assembly meeting** (*quick remedial tutorial: all tenured, tenure-track and IRC faculty members are members of the Faculty Assembly*), **which means you are all invited!** We won't have room for all of you (some though) in Dwire 201 (it's brown bag this month anyway), but **you can easily attend via Teams (the agenda announcement with the link is attached).** Why come? Because we made this a full Faculty Assembly meeting, **any of you (not just FRA members) can give the regents input about the presidential search from 12:30 to 1:00 and chime in with your questions, concerns and ideas during the discussion period (sans regents) from roughly 1:30 to 2.**

And if that's not enough excitement for you, and you are an inattentive reader of *Communique*, I am pleased to let you know that **there is a new Faculty Guide produced by the Faculty Council** (*remedial tutorial: if you are a member of the UCCS Faculty Assembly, you are also a member of the CU Faculty Council*) **Communications Committee (chaired by our own Carmen Stavrositu)** that brings together in one place all the policies and resources for faculty across all four campuses and the CU system. **You can find it here:** <https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council/faculty-guide>

Speaking of the Faculty Council, **when the regents asked at the first meeting of the year what they could do to support faculty,** who they went out of their way to acknowledge had carried an especially heavy load during the pandemic, **I mentioned that** recognition and appreciation are important, but **the biggest morale booster would be a base pay raise in January.** **The new president,** whom I am pleased to say is very much a straight-shooter, **was quick to say** what I already knew, **that this fall's soft**

**enrollments across CU meant that a salary increase is very unlikely.** I will keep pestering everyone anyway.

Remember to look out for the first faculty assembly issue survey of the year one week from today, **Monday, September 13, from the faculty assembly Mitigating the Effects of Covid-19 on Faculty Task Force.** Results from that survey will inform the discussion of that set of issues **at the October Faculty Representative Assembly meeting.**

Onward,



C. David Moon

he/him/his

*Professor of Political Science*

*MPA Director*

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**From:** faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2021 12:07 PM  
**To:** faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>  
**Subject:** [faculty-l] Syllabus Example for Face Coverings

Message from:  
Kelli Klebe - [kklebe@uccs.edu](mailto:kklebe@uccs.edu)

Welcome to the start of the Fall 2021 semester.

I had promised in the Town Hall that I would provide an example of a syllabus statement about the mask coverings and this email does that. I had hoped to get additional information out to you about the start of the semester and that will be coming next week. But thought I better provide this statement to you now.

Below is an example of a statement than can be used in a syllabus. Feel free to use or modify as you see fit.

Other relevant information:

- Each classroom should have a "classroom kit" which will include masks, gloves, cleaning supplies.
- The [Face Covering Executive Order](#) can be found on the [UCCS Policy Pages](#). This provides complete information about exceptions, disciplines, etc.
- As a reminder you cannot ask students about their vaccination status. If a student has an accommodation for a medical reason for not wearing a face covering they will need to provide you the accommodation letter from Disability Services.
- You may wear a clear face shield while teaching; if you need a face shield you may contact facilities services. If you can maintain 10 feet distance from your students, you may remove your face covering while teaching.

Syllabus Example for Face Coverings:

*All students are expected to wear face coverings while inside all UCCS buildings/facilities. Guidance and exceptions to wearing a face covering can be [read in the full executive order](#). Students may be asked to leave the class if they are not wearing a face covering and additional disciplinary action may result in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.*

Expect another email next week with additional details.

I wish you a good start to the semester.

Kelli Klebe, Interim Provost

**From:** faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 02, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>  
**Subject:** [faculty-l] COVID Cases in Classes

Message from:  
Kelli Klebe - [kklebe@uccs.edu](mailto:kklebe@uccs.edu)

UCCS Faculty and Staff,

I want to give a quick update on COVID information and how to handle if someone reports to you that they may have COVID. We are starting to see cases on campus. If you have a reported suspected case in your course or office, you will receive a notification. You do not need to do anything to notify your class. Taking attendance will help with contact tracing. In the text below my name there is a description of the process for reporting and notification about suspected COVID cases. Faculty and staff should work with the Wellness Center if they have concerns about COVID spread in their classrooms or offices. We should all exercise compassion and grace in dealing with students who report that they will miss class or work because they feel ill.

To date, we have had reported cases in 14 classes (may be same student in multiple classes). Since move-in started on Sunday, Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, we've had 17 positive cases and have conducted 42 PCR tests and 376 Rapid tests. Student attestations are completed for 69% of students with 75% of those reporting they are vaccinated. Students who do not attest will have a hold placed on their record for Spring. The Wellness Center will be offering vaccinations throughout the semester. Given the county's COVID rates we are doing very well, but only continued vigilance, compliance with mask directive and getting more people vaccinated will prevent it from getting worse. You can track cases on the [Campus COVID dashboard](#).

Below is detailed information about what happens (and what should not happen) if there is a suspected case of COVID in the classroom. Although the language below is for classrooms, if you have similar situations in your office with coworkers and student workers, the same basic procedures should happen.

The good news is that the number of cases is relatively small for our campus and the system for reporting, conducting contact tracing, and isolating students is working. The Wellness Center and Registrar's office can send automated correspondence to impacted individuals. Vaccinated students will get a different communication than others who are not vaccinated or have not completed the attestation. The communication includes instructions similar to what appears in the text below. We are trying to limit the number of people who are quarantined while keeping campus safe.

We will keep communicating with campus as situations occur. We ask for patience and understanding for students and each other. Students, staff, and faculty may be impacted when there are quarantines or suspected exposure not only by our UCCS students but also by children in schools and other family members as cases increase in county. Recall that we still have COVID leave for those of you who track and use leave. I appreciate your concern for our UCCS community as we progress through the semester.

## **What to do if you Receive a Report of a Positive Case and How the Process Works**

- Ask the individual to notify the Wellness Center immediately to start the confirmation process
- Report the name of the individual to the Wellness Center so we can follow up in the event that we do not hear from them
  - Send an email to [wellness@uccs.edu](mailto:wellness@uccs.edu), Stephanie Hanenberg [shanenbe@uccs.edu](mailto:shanenbe@uccs.edu), Billie Baptiste [bbaptist@uccs.edu](mailto:bbaptist@uccs.edu) and Erika Arteaga [eartega@uccs.edu](mailto:eartega@uccs.edu) to help expedite the response
- Please be patient as contact tracing can take time and we are getting numerous emails and calls every day so it is not uncommon for us to be managing multiple situations at once. We do our best to manage exposures within 24 hours, but depending on the number of exposures, response time of those we contact, and information we can gather it can take longer.
- Follow the guidance of the contact tracer in regards to next steps and provide as much information as possible to help with our tracing process.
  - It is unlikely that you will need to cancel your upcoming classes as we will notify all students who should not attend your class to keep it safe for others that are able to continue coming to campus.
- Students in isolation and quarantine are notified of their release date so the student knows when they are able to return.
  - We call students the day before their release to ensure it is safe for them to return to campus.
  - Students are responsible for working with their faculty during their absence.
- We will make every attempt to narrow down who are considered close contacts of a positive case.
  - See below for how we manage quarantines based on vaccination status
- If we are unable to determine who was in close contact with a positive case, every person who attended a class or event will be notified about the exposure and will be given follow up instructions based on their vaccination status
  - This can result in numerous individuals being pulled from classes, having to move rooms in residence halls, missing work, etc. which is why it is **CRITICAL** that we narrow down the list to as few people as possible
- **You should NOT:**
  - Ask students their vaccination status as the Wellness Center will assess that
  - Announce to the class that there was a positive case as the Wellness Center will contact those individuals who need to be notified as part of the contact tracing process
  - You should **NEVER** share the name of a positive case as that is considered protected health information
  - Require a negative test to return to class as someone can test positive for 90 days so it is not recommended to retest anyone following an initial positive test
  - Ask students to come to class if they are sick unless the Wellness Center has cleared to be on campus.

## **Helpful Hints to Assist with Contact Tracing and to Minimize Spread of COVID**

- When possible take attendance for every class/event
- If possible have a seating chart that is readily available for contact tracers
- If a seating chart is not feasible, please consider one of the following options:
  - Have the students fill out name cards for their desk and take a picture of the cards following the class and keep it on file should a positive exposure occur

- Ask students to sit in the same seats each class and know the names of those sitting near them
- When possible ask students to spread out in the classroom
- Keep the classroom doors/windows open when possible
- Avoid small group activities for extended periods of time (more than 15 minutes)
  - If this cannot be avoided move students to spaces where they can distance from each other easier
- Ensure everyone keeps their mask on indoors

### **Management of Fully Vaccinated versus Partially or Unvaccinated Exposures:**

- Fully vaccinated individuals will be allowed to come to classes and campus as long as they remain asymptomatic
  - COVID testing is recommended 3-5 days following a direct exposure
  - Individuals should monitor for COVID symptoms for 14 days
- Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals with a direct exposure will be asked to quarantine for 10 days and to monitor for symptoms for 14 days
  - This means they may not come to campus for classes, events, work, etc.
- Any individual who develops COVID symptoms will be asked to receive a COVID test and will be placed in isolation for 10 days if they test positive.