

Central Connecticut State University
UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION

Senate Motion Number FS 20.21.025B

TO: President Zulma Toro
FROM: President of the University Senate

1. The attached motion of the University Senate, dealing with: **Resolution on Campus Health and Safety**, is presented to you for your consideration.
2. This motion was adopted by the University Senate on **04/05/2021**.
3. After considering this motion, please indicate your action on this form, and return it together with the original copy to the President of the University Senate.
4. Under the By-Laws of the University Senate, Section 3.7, the following schedule of action is to be observed.
 - a) By **05/28/2021**, Senate action reported to the President of the University. (Within five school days of the session in which they are adopted).
 - b) By **06/14/2021**, the President of the University to return the motion to the President of the Senate. (Within ten school days of its receipt).

05/28/2021

Date

Frederic Latour

Frederic Latour, President, University Senate

ENDORSEMENT:

TO: President of the University Senate
FROM: President Zulma Toro

1. Motion Approved : _____
2. Motion Disapproved: _____ (Explanatory statement must be appended).
3. Action "is deferred": _____
4. Resolution Noted: _____ ✓
5. Other: _____

6/23/2021

Date

President Zulma Toro

**A Resolution to Ensure the Health and Safety of Every Member of the Central Family thereby
Creating an Attractive Campus for Current and Future Students**

On January 8, 2021, the University announced a Spring 2021 update to the Fall 2020 Blueprint for a Successful Semester within the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic that began one year earlier and gripped Connecticut forcing a statewide shutdown in March 2020. As a result, the University suddenly and immediately pivoted to remote learning and working at 10:41 a.m. on March 12, 2020 based on a case of potential exposure.

On January 11, 2021 the Central Family was informed that Phase 1b of the vaccine rollout plan was to include vaccination of those who work and live in congregate settings, including colleges and universities. On January 19, 2021 the campus community was informed that the yet-to-materialize Phase 1b of the vaccine rollout plan was delayed, however the university was drafting a vaccination roster of individuals eligible in Phase 1b. The January 19, 2021 communication also indicated that the University was "exploring the possibility of becoming a vaccination site for the state." Collectively, these communications portrayed the importance the COVID-19 vaccination played in the University's plans to mitigate exposure to and the spread of COVID-19 on campus during the Spring 2021 semester.

On March 5, 2021, the Central Family was informed that the university was "still sorting through the Governor's announcement late yesterday which calls for relaxing many of the state's COVID-19 protocols during the next month" and that an update would be shared "very soon." The March 5th message also emphasized that "driving up our enrollment numbers for the next academic year is critical to avoid additional budget reductions." In subsequent weeks, as the nation was cautioned about a "fourth wave" and urged to take precautions to prevent it, the University announced plans to begin repopulation of campus on Friday, April 9, 2021, at which time a significant number of librarians, counselors, administrative faculty, and members of the clerical union would be required to work on-campus at least three days per week, with many initially schedule to return to a five day per week on-campus schedule.

Whereas, the CCSU Faculty Senate has grave concerns regarding the reopening plans for the University;

Whereas, Central Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence in all fields, including health and the natural sciences;

Whereas, the CCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the CCSU teaching and administrative faculty;

Whereas, both State statistics and CDC epidemiological data point to a potential fourth peak of COVID-19 and Connecticut now has the fourth largest rate of infections nationwide;

Whereas, a campus on which health and safety is paramount is a critical foundation for pursuing academic excellence;

Whereas, a campus on which safety is paramount will undoubtedly be attractive to students and their parents, and will serve to increase enrollment;

Whereas, the faculty (teaching and administrative) is willing to assist in a CCSU Cares Campaign to promote vaccinations and safety practices;

Whereas, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is desperately urging Americans to stay the course and employers to implement control measures to eliminate or reduce COVID-19 exposure in order to maintain a healthy workplace;

Whereas, on March 8, 2021, the CDC stated that "authorized vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19" and this statement has not been revised or retracted;

Whereas, on March 8, 2021, the CDC also stated that "Additionally, a growing body of evidence suggest that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others"; and

Whereas, Governor Lamont published "Best Practices for Reopening" (updated March 19, 2021) which includes these recommendations (among others):

- "Those who can work from home should continue to do so."
- "Individuals over the age of 65 or with other health conditions should not visit offices, but instead continue to stay home and stay safe."
- "Encourage employees to continue to work from home where possible, and put appropriate measures to facilitate this where possible."
- "Businesses should take these best practices as the minimum baseline of precautions needed to protect public health in Connecticut."

Therefore, be it resolved:

that the CCSU Faculty Senate implores the administration to delay the start date of the three-phase repopulation plan currently scheduled to begin on Friday, April 9, 2021 until Tuesday, June 15, 2021 so as to take into consideration the sound advice of the CDC and State of Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, enabling faculty and staff to have a reasonable chance to receive the full dose of a COVID-19 vaccine;

that the CCSU Faculty Senate calls on the administration to immediately create a health communication campaign to promote vaccination efforts among of faculty, staff, and students; and

be it further resolved, that the CCSU Faculty Senate calls on the administration to create a detailed Summer 2021 repopulation plan, based on essential duties, and that the plan outline the external indicators (e.g., CDC guidance, Governor's directives, national and stated COVID positivity rates, etc.) that will guide repopulation of the campus to its pre-pandemic state.