



## **ACADEMIC SENATE**

**11/AS/20/SEC**

### **Appropriate COVID-19 Responses by Campus Community Members (Sense of the Senate)**

**RESOLVED:** That the AS remind faculty to recognize the lived experience of everyone in the University community during the COVID-19 crisis, particularly our students. The AS asks our colleagues to seek means by which we can ensure our students don't suffer unduly because of a situation outside of anyone's control. AS encourages our colleagues to honor the efforts our students are making by being flexible on course assignments, evaluations, and expectations, while retaining academic integrity; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the AS strongly request that resources needed, such as psychological counseling, basic needs, and academic advising, to deal with the turmoil associated with the COVID-19 crisis be made readily available to students; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the AS assert that Students, Faculty, Staff and Administrators have the right to a safe and clean campus. AS requests that the institution make every effort to provide employees with appropriate resources (such as personal protective equipment and testing for infectious diseases when requested) and the appropriate support for them should they be found to have contracted a viral illness.

**RATIONALE:** The AS recognizes the unique situations our students are experiencing having to "stay at home"/shelter in place. Many have younger siblings or children at home with them, interfering with their ability to have adequate time and space to study. Many have lost their jobs and are having to spend their days either searching for jobs or working on-call in the gig economy where their ability to study is interrupted by calls to work. The AS notes that many of our students don't have adequate access to digital tools and Wi-Fi, impacting their ability to access online course materials and assignments, and impacting their ability to perform to their best on homework and exams. The AS recognizes the impact this has had on the quality of our instruction. The AS acknowledges that our colleagues are doing the best they can given the circumstances.

Furthermore, The voraciousness with which the COVID-19 virus has spread throughout the broad American and global communities has brought to light the need to have improved cleaning and disinfecting best practices (including the supply of personal sanitation products), so as to ensure the thorough cleaning of all interpersonal spaces by properly equipped janitorial staff - particularly where there is a good deal of one-on-one interaction. Additionally, some campus employees, by the nature of their particular positions on the campus, are in at-risk situations [public safety officers, janitorial staff, and health care professionals, among others].