

# WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty Senate Resolution

September 20, 2021

### Resolution on COVID-19 Policies at Wright State University

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose an ongoing threat to public health in Ohio and throughout the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, since April of 2020, the United States has seen more than 41 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in more than 658,000 deaths;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, since April of 2020, Ohio has seen more than 1.3 million cases of COVID-19 infection, resulting in more than 68,000 hospitalizations and more than 21,000 deaths;<sup>2</sup> and,

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control currently identifies the risk of community transmission of the COVID-19 virus in Ohio as “High;”<sup>3</sup> and,

**WHEREAS**, vaccination against COVID-19 has been shown to be safe, highly effective in reducing the rate of infection, and highly effective in reducing the severity of infections among individuals who contract COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, vaccination rates among eligible Ohioans continue to lag significantly behind the national average for the United States;<sup>4</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, most public institutions of higher learning within the state of Ohio (among them Bowling Green State University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, the University of Akron, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Toledo) have implemented vaccine mandates for students during the 2021-2022 academic year;<sup>5</sup> and,

**WHEREAS**, the administration of Wright State University has stated that it does not plan to institute a vaccine mandate at the present time;<sup>6</sup> and,

**WHEREAS**, this decision places Wright State University at odds with the majority of Ohio’s four-year institutions of higher learning; and,

**WHEREAS**, Wright State University has a responsibility to provide a safe learning and working environment for its students, staff, and faculty; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Faculty Senate calls upon the administration of Wright State University to immediately take steps to increase the safety of the learning and working environment for all members of our campus communities, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The establishment of incentive structures for students to become fully vaccinated as soon as possible
- The creation of an open portal to compile vaccination records from students, staff, and faculty to provide baseline data about vaccinations
- Opening vaccination and testing sites at both the Dayton and Lake Campuses, and increasing efforts to publicize these sites
- Requiring students, faculty, and staff to provide record of vaccination or to report for weekly COVID testing
- Announce plans for COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements to be implemented no later than the start of the Spring, 2022 semester with sufficient lead time to allow for compliance among those affected
- The implementation of other such policies to bring Wright State University into alignment with our peer institutions throughout the State of Ohio

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

<sup>2</sup> Ohio Department of Public Health, <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards>

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

<sup>4</sup> 65% of Americans ages 18 and up have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19; 59.2% of Ohioans ages 18 and up are fully vaccinated. Centers for Disease Control, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinationschart>, HealthData.gov, <https://healthdata.gov/Community/COVID-19-State-Profile-Report-Ohio/wq3k-5ghq>

<sup>5</sup> An updated list of institutions requiring vaccinations may be found here: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/list-of-colleges-that-require-covid-19-vaccine/>

<sup>6</sup> Wright State University Retirees Association, <http://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/wright-state-guardian-wright-state-not-planning-to-mandate-covid-19-vaccinations>