

EVENT NAME

Fall 2021: Addressing Your Instructional Questions

EVENT DATE: WEDNESDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER, 2021 - 04:00 PM to 05:00 PM

EVENT BY: J. WALSH

Posted Questions

[04:31 PM]

anonymous asked : I have not received a single university communication that has even acknowledged how stressful this situation is for caregivers of vulnerable populations, including children who cannot be vaccinated. What is the university doing to support these families?

23 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:20 PM]

anonymous asked : Why are staff who do not interface with students on campus being mandated to return to campus or risk termination?

21 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:45 PM]

anonymous asked : The comments in the Q&A suggest that these presentations are not allaying the fears and anxieties that some of us have. Will the University continue to deliberate over our concerns (and if so, how), or is this done deal (for lack of a better term)? A direct and clear response would be helpful.

21 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:58 PM]

anonymous asked : Like this post if you'll join us on the picket line:

21 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:14 PM]

anonymous asked : Bottom line: Is the University open to allowing faculty to decide on virtual vs hybrid vs in-person instruction, or is that off the table as far as leadership is concerned? For clarity / transparency, I hope we can get a direct response to that question today.

20 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:22 PM]

anonymous asked : Remote learning is difficult, yeah, but dying is kinda worse.

19 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:54 PM]

anonymous asked : What will happen to faculty who decide to simply teach online?

19 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:19 PM]

anonymous asked : Why is the university not committed to notifying faculty when a student tests positive in their class? Surely this can be done in a way that respects the student's anonymity and the faculty and

student's right to health?

18 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:37 PM]

anonymous asked : I still have yet to see a real answer to WHY we're putting faculty, staff and students at risk, other than "people don't like online learning." This whole thing just comes across as the University seeing us as disposable and/or replaceable.

18 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:55 PM]

anonymous asked : The university does not seem yet prepared for in-person teaching: policies are unclear and are in flux, the new vaccine stats have not been taken account of, and many staff and faculty do not feel cared for. Why don't we go online for two weeks while the administration gets the details right?

18 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:58 PM]

anonymous asked : I found this less than helpful, I'll see you out on the picket line, if that's what it takes.

18 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:00 PM]

anonymous asked : Concerned faculty, please join Penn's AAUP chapter

18 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:27 PM]

anonymous asked : The questions in chat are excellent. We are asking for direct answers. The prepared speeches are useful, but we need direct answers to the questions posted.

17 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:47 PM]

anonymous asked : To add to the "done deal" comment. This does not feel like a conversation that could lead to a compromise, or any changes in the administration's mandates. The prepared remarks are not answering many of our very direct questions.

17 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:21 PM]

anonymous asked : Does the university have any plans to actually teach people how to mask properly and provide high-quality masks? Why is the university still saying cloth masks, for example, are safe?

16 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:49 PM]

anonymous asked : But we do not have 100% effective masking w/quality masks, nor 100% vaccinated students or faculty, so how can you deem the classroom low risk? Your assessment is based on a fantasy that hasn't been realized.

16 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:58 PM]

anonymous asked : This has not been helpful!

16 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:27 PM]

anonymous asked : I have an underlying health condition last sent me to the ER just last week. These scripted statements that avoid genuine engagement of faculty concerns leave me feeling demoralized. Sigh.
15 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:33 PM]

XXXXX asked : To teach in person, you have to get to Penn. Does Penn consider commuting on SEPTA (with varying vaccination status of other passengers) low or no risk?
15 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:49 PM]

anonymous asked : Continuously saying that the class is low risk when doesn't make it the truth. Many students are with the masks below their nose. There is a limit to how many times you can tell them to put the mask above the nose.
15 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:50 PM]

anonymous asked : I don't understand why the classroom is considered low-risk exposure. We spend 180 minutes per week per class with these students in packed conditions, sometimes in very small rooms, with many people speaking, some in inadequate or improperly worn masks.
15 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:59 PM]

anonymous asked : Given these responses, i see no reason for all of us to not get unionized. This has not been helpful at all
15 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:34 PM]

anonymous asked : Why is social distancing not required in classrooms? Is it because we do not have adequate facilities to accommodate social distancing? I suspect that is the reason. The decision to not require social distancing does not support the health or wellbeing of faculty, students, staff and families.
14 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:38 PM]

anonymous asked : What happens when workers with children lose access to childcare due to COVID?
14 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:38 PM]

XXXXX asked : Would anyone attending this meeting from the safety of their home be willing to sit in on my classes and sit next to (shoulder to shoulder as they are) the students whose masks fall of their noses many times during class?
14 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:45 PM]

anonymous asked : How many staff/faculty would have to strike for Penn to change this policy?
14 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:54 PM]

XXXXX asked : A direct response to "what will happen to faculty who decide to simply teach online" would be appreciated.

14 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:43 PM]

anonymous asked : Did Penn improve ventilation in the classrooms? Which ones, and how? My packed classrooms made social distancing impossible. Many students wore cloth masks. Some had to be reminded by me to pull their masks up over their noses. I'm waiting anxiously for my booster shot.

13 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:18 PM]

anonymous asked : Benoit Dube mentioned readily available outdoor spaces - What are the outdoor spaces that are available? Are they available for teaching?

12 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:22 PM]

anonymous asked : What is the reason that I cannot know whether there are unvaccinated students in my class. Why does their privacy superseded my well being?

12 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:29 PM]

anonymous asked : What is Penn doing differently in light of the alarming new statistics about vaccine effectiveness? "Vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection dropped from about 91% to 66% once the Delta variant became the dominant strain in the U.S." (WebMD, August 25)

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:30 PM]

anonymous asked : To follow up on the long covid question, something like 20% of covid cases lead to this. Brain fog is a symptom that could be career ending. Does Penn have any credible data about long covid after breakthrough delta infections? Does such data even exist yet?

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:34 PM]

anonymous asked : The process Benoit Dube mentions for faculty seeking an exemption from teaching because of vulnerable family members is incredibly unclear. Can you please address how these requests will be evaluated and granted? And WHEN? we are already in teh first week of classes

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:35 PM]

XXXXX asked : With the requirement to have cloth masks from only certain vendors or surgical masks - can the university provide those to all faculty and staff? It does not seem reasonable to assume people have the right masks.

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:41 PM]

anonymous asked : I will ask a question that's in the chat again: Why can't we choose to teach online? I'd like a direct answer, please.

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:44 PM]

anonymous asked : We have not yet heard a response to our request to have options to teach online. The panel seems to point only to exemptions. If we do not have an exemption recognized by OAA, what recourse do we have?

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:49 PM]

anonymous asked : Everyone may find the website microcovid.org useful. It lets you estimate the risk of various social situations. Here is a risk assessment for the students sitting in my classroom: <https://is.gd/0PFCqR> . The website says they face "Very High Risk".

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:51 PM]

anonymous asked : I'm a staff member and want to thank the PPSA for making us aware of this session. I thought it was just staff who were getting the runaround and of course faculty are likely at higher risk being around large numbers of students. Why won't you answer them?

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:53 PM]

anonymous asked : I'm still curious why this planning is happening SO LATE and in a way that forces even high risk people to teach in dangerous classrooms. We've known about delta since April. This also makes me question the "public health expertise" being touted here.

11 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:12 PM]

XXXXX asked : Duke students were masked in classrooms

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:13 PM]

anonymous asked : FWIW, the statement about Duke students being unmasked is incorrect. Duke had practically the same masking restrictions Penn has right now.

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:23 PM]

anonymous asked : What about LONG COVID? This would be bad for professors and students who try to learn.

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:32 PM]

anonymous asked : Why can't we choose to teach online? I realize you answered a similar question early in the session. But you did not give us a good reason why we can't teach online.

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:43 PM]

XXXXX asked : If the child of a faculty member is quarantined because of exposure to a covid-positive classmate - should the parent/faculty member teach that day in person?

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:46 PM]

anonymous asked : Penn has done a ventilation assessment I can't locate the reports about our buildings and how the ventilation of each room we work in aligns with ventilation best practices. if this work has been done, it is reasonable to expect transparent records of this work.

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:46 PM]

XXXXX asked : Faculty may hold office hours remotely - advising staff must advise students one-to-one in small offices. Why?

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:48 PM]

anonymous asked : who makes this assessment of low or high risk? I have a class of shoulder to shoulder students breathing on each other for 90 mins - not all classrooms are the same

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:48 PM]

XXXXX asked : Given this last response, should we be asking students to show us green passes to gain access to class?

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:50 PM]

anonymous asked : Can you please let me know how asking for accommodations to not die is "special consideration"?

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:52 PM]

anonymous asked : Red passes; green passes: Have you seen how students open the building doors for each other? Someone with a raging fever could enter and sit in a classroom and no one would be the wiser.

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:58 PM]

anonymous asked : You haven't responded to any of the complaints regarding the fact that the students are not wearing masks and that the class is not a low risk location.

10 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:32 PM]

anonymous asked : If teaching in the classroom is considered low to no risk, will classroom transmission be investigated or tracked at all?

9 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:36 PM]

anonymous asked : If an individual instructor is willing to suffer low evaluations to teach online, will this be

allowed?

9 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:43 PM]

anonymous asked : How many people on this panel are contingent workers or people with vulnerable family members?

9 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:49 PM]

anonymous asked : 50 minutes into the meeting, we talk about people with kids

9 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:51 PM]

XXXXX asked : Can we get better guidance for students and faculty about what is an effective mask. Yesterday, first day of classes, I passed by a large shoulder-to-shoulder class with masks on chins, no masks, eating, sipping coffee. Or old cotton masks sagging on the nose.

9 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:57 PM]

anonymous asked : Is PPSA the correct body to organize a staff strike over safety concerns?

9 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Patrick Walsh (Faculty Senate) answered -

Speaking as the Chair of the PPSA: no, the PPSA is not an organized bargaining unit. It is an organization of staff volunteers whose aim is to enrich the sense of community for Penn staff. PPSA serves as both an informational and support network: we advocate for the interests of professional staff to senior leadership through University Council, and we provide outlets for us to break out of our departmental "silos" and explore the robust resources that our campus community (both physical and virtual) has to offer.

[04:16 PM]

XXXXX asked : Princeton is doing gateway and weekly. CDC guidelines for the rates of infection in Philadelphia recommend weekly at a minimum

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:24 PM]

anonymous asked : It's great that you have at least one study stating the negative impact of online learning. How many have you checked on the negative impact of dying from being forced to teach in person?

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:30 PM]

anonymous asked : what's the current vaccination rate at penn among students and faculty. last i heard it was 88-90%. duke was 98, i believe. 10% is a big difference, no?

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:39 PM]

anonymous asked : Given the growing number of outbreaks on other campuses, it is not at all unreasonable it will happen here. People can and will get sick, very sick, and could even die. Why are we being treated as canaries in the coal mine?

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:45 PM]

XXXXX asked : That is not true about Duke not having masked students. They were masked in classes.

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:46 PM]

anonymous asked : Ok so, other institutions in Philadelphia are doing poorly. We are doing less poorly. Does that make the policies right?

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:48 PM]

anonymous asked : Will your assessment of low risk classroom exposure include video recording of each student's mask placement?

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:52 PM]

anonymous asked : I hope that the panel members will read and respond to the questions and comments in the Q&A. Many of those present are not expressing satisfaction with the presentations here, well-meaning as they are.

8 upvotes | 2 answers | 1 reply

Patrick Walsh (Faculty Senate) answered -

Hello - As with the other Seminars the Faculty Senate has held, all questions will be collected and forwarded to the panelists for written replies and will then be posted along with the video here:

<https://provost.upenn.edu/senate/faculty-senate-seminar-series>

Patrick Walsh (Faculty Senate) answered -

("...along with the video...")

anonymous replied -

thank you.

[04:55 PM]

anonymous asked : There is a lot of hiding behind the passive voice here.

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:55 PM]

anonymous asked : Who is enforcing these guidelines? Students are following them. Faculty don't have the ability to make them follow the guidelines.

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:57 PM]

anonymous asked : It is very clear that some old buildings do not have any ` systems. My building, for example, uses wall heating and a/c and has no other ventilation system beyond opening the window.

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:57 PM]

XXXXX asked : Green passes. Do students need to present them to gain class entry?

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:59 PM]

anonymous asked : This Q&A, as a Google doc:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HTRmh09IEOTRH6m3IYysJwFOn3A8u4qo5bVfwI8ijV4/edit?usp=sharing>

8 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:26 PM]

XXXXX asked : can we know what these 12 zip codes are? or is it secret?

7 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:38 PM]

XXXXX asked : What is a "public space" as distinct from simply being indoors? (These are categories of spaces in which students are asked to be masked, etc.) The students on Locust Walk yesterday mid-afternoon were densely packed and largely unmasked.

7 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:39 PM]

XXXXX asked : Office of Affirm. Action phone number never answered!!! No one there!!

7 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:39 PM]

anonymous asked : What about exemption due to high-risk children?

7 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:57 PM]

XXXXX asked : Designated outdoor spaces for teaching?

7 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:11 PM]

anonymous asked : Is there a public health expert present on the panel?

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:19 PM]

anonymous asked : My department just released return to work guidelines that indicated masks are not required for indoor workspaces in which 6 feet of distance can be maintained. What are the panelists' thoughts on the safety/risks of that?

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:25 PM]

anonymous asked : is pushing back the return date a possibility since the spike in cases trending upwards

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:28 PM]

anonymous asked : Is the reason we're returning to in-person because senior leadership can't figure out how to use Zoom?

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:39 PM]

anonymous asked : It is deeply concerning that you've chosen a "public health expert" who seems to be lacking public health expertise. The consensus among public health experts is that universities and schools should not allow in-person teaching, given that there are 1000+ people dying per day in the US at the moment

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:40 PM]

XXXXX asked : I've studied the medical accommodation form. One needs to assert a disability to obtain this. Does being vulnerable to long covid brain fog from a delta variant breakthrough case amount to a disability? Would not being immune to smallpox be a disability, for example?

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:48 PM]

anonymous asked : you're assuming that all students are vaccinated. but they aren't.

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:52 PM]

anonymous asked : The SEMBLANCE of discordance???

5 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:57 PM]

anonymous asked : Will a record of the Q&A be kept and/or made available? Or should we start screen-shooting responses now for our records?

5 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:59 PM]

anonymous asked : How is teaching outdoors okay but teaching online is not okay? What is the problem with teaching online?

5 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:59 PM]

XXXXX asked : The School of Design told faculty we may not teach in its tent

5 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:00 PM]

anonymous asked : I'm not sure all attendees can see this Q&A so thanks to whoever is sharing and saving! let's organize!

5 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:00 PM]

anonymous asked : This has not been helpful.

5 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:44 PM]

anonymous asked : I believe RIGHT NOW the testing on campus is closed because of inclement weather. How can a student with a red pass be tested today? The tent closed at 1pm!

4 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:59 PM]

anonymous asked : To the panel: I hope you have intended to be supportive and helpful in this . Unfortunately, I do not feel you have achieved either. You have not asked simple, direct questions.

4 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:00 PM]

anonymous asked : this has been surreal

4 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:23 PM]

anonymous asked : Why is the university under-reporting the number of positive covid cases? We are hearing about mass positive cases in various cohorts (undergrad and grad--including 100 current positive in a single cohort). Does the university have any commitment to honest and transparent reporting?

3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:23 PM]

XXXXX asked : I need to use the same microphone just employed by the preceding lecturer. The microphone is close to my face, and theirs. Are there resources to decontaminate microphones?

3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:33 PM]

anonymous asked : What about students being vaccinated by vaccines that are not approved in the U.S.? Is Penn monitoring the efficacy of these "other" vaccines? Why can't we wait until everyone has a booster shot? Or at least all faculty over the age of 60 who are teaching in person this semester?

3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:34 PM]

anonymous asked : is that a ethernet port on the wall

3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:34 PM]

XXXXX asked : I want to teach in person and am enjoying see my students. These positive students are (granted) unlikely to pass the infection while masked in class, but these student live within the West Philadelphia community. I think we should be following the CDC guidance minimum weekly testing

3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:00 PM]

XXXXX asked : thank you all!

3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:43 PM]

anonymous asked : This is not true - a student with a red pass was unable to get tested today and now cannot attend class tomorrow.

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:44 PM]

XXXXX asked : I believe Harvard is testing vaccinated members (faculty, staff, and students) once a week and vaccinated members twice a week.

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:44 PM]

anonymous asked : Are there only 200 faculty on this meeting because the rest are ok with in person teaching?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:01 PM]

anonymous asked : ALL JOIN AAUP!

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:01 PM]

anonymous asked : I support my colleagues, whatever it takes!

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:01 PM]

anonymous asked : AAUP supports staff!

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:01 PM]

XXXXX asked : Yes, join AAUP!!!

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:10 PM]

XXXXX asked : Has this started? Nothing happening on screen or audio....

1 upvote | 1 answer | 0 reply

Patrick Walsh (Faculty Senate) answered -

Yes it started - sorry for your trouble. Basic suggestion but perhaps try logging off and back in? Also can send a recording.

[04:39 PM]

anonymous asked : Dean and chair have referred professors to OAA

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[04:57 PM]

XXXXX asked : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/ihe-testing.html>

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:01 PM]

anonymous asked : The Google Doc of this Q&A:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HTRmh09IEOTRH6m3IYysJwFOn3A8u4qo5bVfwI8ijV4/edit?usp=sharing>

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[05:02 PM]

XXXXX asked : <https://aaup-penn.org/>

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply