

MOTION TO APPROVE
FAILED

RS.20.07
August 10, 2020

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
PRE-FILED RESOLUTION
(Final; Action)

RS.20.07 Resolution Concerning the University's Protection of and Accountability for
Campus and Community Health

WHEREAS the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is planning for the return of all enrolled students in mid-August;

WHEREAS these plans now include testing all these students, together with all faculty, staff, and campus workers, twice a week, with around 18 to 20 testing tents, some operating 7 days a week, with 50 tests administered every hour at each tent, and appointment days assigned in the university community (private email communication from Professor Becky Smith, quoted with permission);

WHEREAS this degree of testing is both essential for protecting the health of all community members and feasible given our breakthroughs in cost-effective and accurate saliva-based Sars-CoV-2 diagnostics;

WHEREAS epidemiologists at Yale, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School have also concluded that "Frequent screening (every 2 or 3 days) of all students with a low-sensitivity, high-specificity test will control outbreaks with manageable isolation dormitory utilization at a justifiable cost";

WHEREAS compliance with a twice-a-week testing regime requiring consistent appearances at a campus testing tent at two specified times during the week will be difficult to motivate and many students may skip one or more appointments;

WHEREAS the failure to comply with the testing regime may cause a serious outbreak of COVID-19 cases outside the testing population, especially among the workers exposed to positive students who do not isolate and the family members and community contacts of the workers;

WHEREAS the larger the number of returning students the more likely it will be that some will fail to comply with the testing regime, thus increasing the likelihood of the spread of the virus;

WHEREAS all our fall classes, with only a handful of exceptions, will be available to students to take remotely if they so choose;

WHEREAS the safest and healthiest opening in the fall would be one where the fewest students as possible move to Champaign-Urbana and all or most of these students are strongly

motivated to comply with all mitigation measures, including mask wearing, social distancing, keeping social contacts to a minimum, and complying with the mandatory testing regime;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that it is the sense of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate that the university make it attractive to students to remain where they currently reside and take all their courses remotely by offering a tuition discount to all students who choose this option;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of Senate that the same tuition discount be given to all students as a rebate at the end of the fall semester if they can demonstrate 100% compliance with the mandatory testing regime, including compliance with any quarantine or isolation directive they may receive;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate that the COVID-19 Task Force should be charged to create a secure method to allow every mandated test-taker to easily demonstrate his or her “completed” or “missed” status (or something similar) for any given test, respecting and protecting all the individual’s health privacy rights;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that all members of the Champaign-Urbana community should be able to be tested, free of charge, on a walk-up basis in order to complement the mandatory test regime for all campus employees and students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that Human Resources, the Dean of Students and the Dean of the Graduate College should be charged to develop a monitoring protocol for the testing regime with clear policies for cases of non-compliance, respectful of the rights of faculty, students, and workers to equitable treatment and due process;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that all these protocols and policies be formulated as soon as possible in order to be ready for the opening in the fall, and that they be reported to the Senate Executive Committee to be sent to appropriate Senate committees to review in time for them to be promulgated publicly, posted clearly in all buildings, and shared in Massmails to all relevant constituencies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that the campus community should be informed as soon as possible and regularly throughout the pandemic about campus positivity rates and numbers of positive cases in order to allow everyone to make informed choices about moving to campus in the fall and coming to campus during the semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that the university should strengthen and continue to honor its commitment of job security for all university employees regardless of changes to on-campus instruction or on-campus work policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that the university should assume responsibility for defraying the funeral costs for all families who present a claim that the death of their loved one from COVID-19 can be traced to his or her exposure to the virus on campus;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that the university should offer a lump sum compensation to the family of any worker whose death from COVID-19 can be traced to an exposure to the virus in the course of fulfilling job-related duties on campus.

Bruce Rosenstock, Senator, Religion

Josue David Cisneros, Senator, Communication

Ralph Mathisen, Senator, History

Kathryn Clancy, Senator, Anthropology