



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
PROFESSORS

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE CHAPTER
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September 7, 2021

Dear President Assanis and Provost Morgan,

The AAUP-UD Executive Council is becoming increasingly concerned about the probability that there will be a rapid increase in the number of COVID positive students on UD campuses this fall and, therefore, it will be a danger to faculty and their families.

The 56 identified new COVID cases last week, with 33 on September 3 alone, may be the beginning of this increase, and there certainly must be more unidentified cases on campus. We believe that the UD administration needs to do a better job at preventing the spread of COVID and in monitoring the extent of spread on all UD campuses. Therefore, the AAUP-UD Executive Council voted unanimously on Friday to insist that you do the following to ensure the health and safety of the faculty, staff, and students at UD.

- 1) Require regular COVID testing (preferably weekly) of all persons (vaccinated and unvaccinated) coming to all UD campuses this fall to monitor the level of COVID on campus and report the total number of tests, and how many test positive, on the UD COVID dashboard. The university should make available on campus as much testing as possible by its own in-house testing and take-home kits.
- 2) Immediately cease the restriction of access to campus buildings by only allowing entrance through a small subset of doors during operating hours. This restriction of access to buildings forces people to funnel through doors, especially between classes, thus decreasing physical distancing and increasing congregation outside buildings while most people are still unmasked.
- 3) Faculty members are to be notified immediately of those students in their classes who test positive for COVID, since those students are required to isolate for 10 days and must not come to class during that time. Alternatively, faculty members could be notified that the student has an excused absence and should not be attending class in-person for the next 10 days. They also could be asked that the student be allowed to continue online for that time period if the class is set up to do this.

We believe that faculty members are doing their best to use multiple pedagogical means to ensure that our students are able to complete this semester successfully. However, we are taking the present COVID pandemic situation on our campuses very seriously with respect to the health and safety of the faculty we represent. We are perplexed and troubled by the lack of thorough surveillance testing and additional measures that would seem prudent to put in place because of the rapidly spreading Delta variant. We believe that this lack of appropriate measures is creating a potentially dangerous situation that could erupt later (or even sooner) during this fall semester. We ask that this inadequacy be corrected, and that the university implement our requested items immediately, along with other measures that would contribute to the health and safety of UD faculty, staff, and students.

If you would like to discuss any of these matters further, please feel free to contact me.

On behalf of the Executive Council,
Deni S. Galileo
President, AAUP-UD