Faculty Senate Survey for Fall Semester Instructional Planning Overview
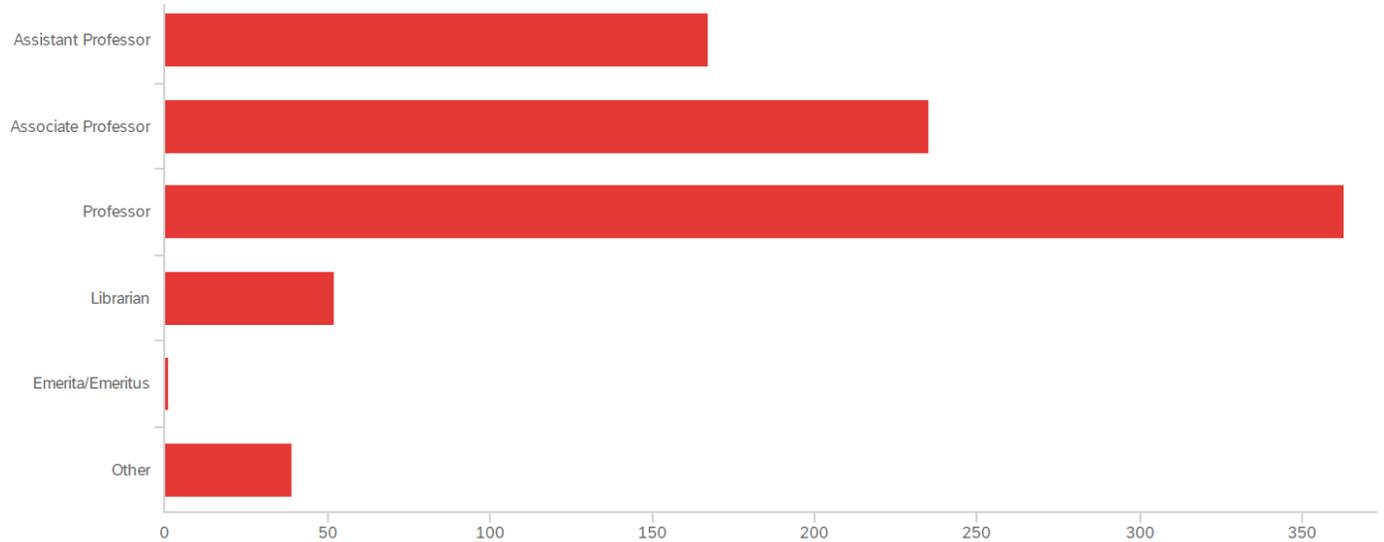
875 respondents completed the survey. 857 respondents provided their title, of which 39 indicated "Other" which includes research faculty and some lecturers or clinical faculty with which the link to the survey was shared.

Opting Out of In Person Teaching

In response to the question, "In your opinion, under what circumstances listed below should a faculty member be allowed to opt out of in person teaching due to COVID-19?" there was significant support for opting out for most any reason, and less support for an unspecified preference to teach remotely.

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Based on narrative information received throughout the survey, opting in to teaching in-person rather than opting out would alleviate some concerns about pressure to teach in person, and disproportionate impact on faculty of color and on junior faculty if required to opt out.

In response to the question, given what you know about current conditions and fall instruction, are you willing to teach in person this fall, 30.63% responded "Yes," 47.54% of respondents answered "No," 21.83% responded "Other."

Based on the narrative information people provided, there is much uncertainty from faculty about whether they will teach in person in the fall. This uncertainty is related to lack of knowledge about how the pandemic will evolve and what conditions will be like in the fall. Uncertainty is also related to lack of information about what safety measures will be put in place, and how safety measures will be implemented and enforced, including testing and contact

tracing. To alleviate concerns, safety measures need to be established, implemented, and communicated.

There was significant concern expressed about how safety measures will be enforced.

Who will enforce mask-wearing and social distancing in class? Some faculty do not feel equipped to do this. Some respondents noted that asking faculty to enforce safety protocols is particularly difficult for faculty of color or for female faculty whose authority may already be undermined in the classroom by students.

A suggestion was made to develop language about expectations that can be included on the syllabus.

Protocols are needed for:
- Testing and health screening
- Response when a student or faculty member becomes ill, or has a positive test – how will this be managed?
  - Quarantine, contact tracing, continued health screening
- Disinfecting classrooms
- Managing density during transitions between classes
- Managing density in stairwells, elevators, restrooms

A number of faculty expressed that in-person work is necessary for students to have a Michigan experience. Some work must happen in person, and as much in-person instruction should be offered as safely as possible. However, more respondents did not think in person instruction is a good idea under current conditions.

Primary campus-safety challenges, worries, struggles

- There is general consensus that students will not socially distance and follow health safety guidelines off campus putting others on campus at risk, including faculty and staff.
- There is inadequate information about testing, contact tracing, and quarantining people with positive results.
- There is concern about the adequacy of the facilities where teaching will take place. Ventilation is believed to be inadequate, and many common areas are expected to be crowded.
- People are struggling with childcare responsibilities that include supervision and homeschooling. There is concern about a disproportionate impact of additional family responsibilities on women.

What could limit your abilities in the fall?

- Lack of access to faculty offices.
- Lack of access to library materials – curbside service was requested.
- Lack of childcare.
- Lack of dedicated office space at home.
- People noted that productivity has been significantly impacted.
- Preparing for in-person and on-line teaching simultaneously is extremely time consuming. Other responsibilities such as service are suggested to be reduced.

What interventions would most improve your experience or address anticipated needs of remote instruction for the future?

- Student accessibility is a concern. Could U-M provide WIFI hotspots to students?
- Quality audio equipment is needed for students for quality music instruction.
- Allow recording of courses while projecting to in person classes.

Examples of Supports or activities that were helpful or that worked well

- Use of empty classrooms for recording lectures
- Live student polling – sli.do and poll everywhere can help student engagement online
- Templates for setting up courses
- iPads to use as white board
- Flexibility on tenure requirements and research expectations

Do you have other concerns or recommendations?

- Masks are problematic for the hearing impaired. Shields may work better.
- Masks inhibit sound. Microphones may help with sound issues.
- Guidelines about when campus would need to close again would be helpful to know.
- People would like to know what to expect so they can plan.
- There should be a robust plan for regular testing and contact tracing.