



Student Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2021

Circulated: October 8, 2021

Approved: October 15, 2021

Present: Harish Ganesh (Chair), Michael Atzmon (SACUA Liaison), Simon Cushing, Helen Look, Laura MacLatchy, Jeannie Moody Novak, Jessica Pasquale, Amanda Peters, Monica Porter, Yaacov Ritov

Absent: Ashley Gerhardt, Charlie Koopmann, Xiomara Santamarina

Administrative: Martino Harmon, Jennifer Schrage, MaryJo Banasik, Pam Morris, Elizabeth Devlin

Guests: Mary Jo Desprez, Wolverine Wellness Director
Amy Dittmar, Senior Vice Provost
Rob Ernst, AVP for Student Life and executive Director for UHS
Laura Blake Jones, Dean of Students

Chair Ganesh called the meeting to order and asked committee members to review the agenda and April 16, 2021 meeting minutes for approval.

There being no further discussion the agenda and the April 16, 2021, meeting minutes were approved.

Chair Ganesh welcomed the committee members and asked committee members to introduce themselves. He let the committee know that the meeting will be recorded to provide this information to the student representatives that will join the committee at the next meeting.

- **Student Life Update:** *Martino Harmon, Vice President for Student Life and Jennifer Schrage, Senior Advisor to VP Student Life and Interim Associate Vice President*

VP Harmon gave an overview of the feedback and the advisory role the committee members provide for all of Student Life.

- Student Life published an [outcomes report](#) and provided it to the committee for reference.
- VP Harmon shared an overview of Student Life Priorities for this year.
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Adaptable and Inclusive Talent Management
 - Integrated Partnerships
 - Understanding our Work, Determining our Impact, Telling our



Stories

Jennifer Schrage shared with the committee that the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities amendment process will be underway this year. She directed committee members to the [shared internal folder](#) to review materials relating to the statement and the amendment process. The Director of

Student Conflict and Resolution will attend the November meeting to discuss the statement amendment process in depth.

Health, Well-Being and Harm Reduction: *Mary Jo Desprez, Wolverine Wellness Director; Amy Dittmar, Senior Vice Provost; Laura Blake Jones, Dean of Students*

- [Overview of SL Health, Well-Being and Harm Reduction Goals for FY22](#)
Focus: SL Implementation Plans for Student Mental Health Task Force

Update on COVID-19 Protocols/Considerations: *Dr. Rob Ernst, AVP for Student Life and Executive Director for UHS*

Dr. Ernst shared the university's fall plans for COVID-19 protocols built around the current CDC protocols for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Dr. Ernst shared data on current rate of infection, the Delta variant, the number of cases and how vaccination mitigates the effect of COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

Next Steps:

Chair Ganesh will gather questions from the committee members and from the zoom chat and send to Dr. Ernst.

Chair Ganesh indicated that more discussion time for the committee members should be built into future agendas.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Devlin

Faculty Governance Coordinator, Faculty Senate Office

Appendix I: Chat Questions for Dr. Ernst from the Committee

Michael Atzmon: Policies created in the summer were based on pre-August vaccine effectiveness data. Recent data (on CDC site) indicate lower, 40-80% effectiveness against any infection for Delta. How have these numbers been accounted for in CDC and UM plans?

Dr. Ernst Response:

It is true that the Delta variant has resulted in a more contagious phase of the pandemic. The Delta variant clearly makes unvaccinated individuals even more susceptible and there has been some impact on the efficacy of vaccines also, especially for those not 'fully' vaccinated. Fortunately those who are fully



vaccinated remain at significantly lower risk of acquiring infection, and they are much less susceptible to serious illness. Our campus mitigation plans align with what is recommended by the CDC “Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education”. I personally trust that experts at the CDC incorporate publicly available information into its guidance. Separately I would say that independent of the published series from elsewhere we now also have an established campus experience – among our highly vaccinated population we have seen very low test positivity (routinely used in public health as a metric of sufficient testing), very manageable case counts with regard to containment resources, ‘rates’ of infection that are at least 3-4x lower among vaccinated individuals, and almost entirely mild illness among those with breakthrough infections. Also, with an established waste water surveillance monitoring system in place for both campus facilities and surrounding residential areas we have seen a pattern of community viral activity that very closely matches the pattern we have seen through individual testing. That adds confidence that we are not missing something significant among the asymptomatic vaccinated population.

Michael Atzmon: Also, why does Responsiblue tell vaccinated people that they are, but definition, not close contacts?

Dr. Ernst Response:

ResponsiBlue is not (yet) configured to automatically incorporate quarantine and isolation decisions into its logic for employees, as it does for students. Guidance from the CDC and our state/local public health partners is clear that asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine or isolate, even if they might otherwise meet criteria for being a close contact of someone known to have COVID19. It is the authority of the county health department to establish quarantine and isolation parameters, and our campus case investigation criteria are established through a delegated agreement with Washtenaw county.

Michael Atzmon: This 5x info (80% effectiveness against any infection) is out of date!

The slide shown during the presentation suggesting a 5x reduced rate of infection for vaccinated individuals, “even after Delta became the most common variant”, was shared in an unaltered way from CDC resources. It had been tweeted by the CDC on 9/10/2021, and was included in an article published by the MMWR 9/17/2021 - within a week of my presentation to SRAC. That feels very current with regard to the CDC position with respect to vaccine efficacy.