

September 22, 2021

Motion to demand that the Administration promote, monitor and enforce the Mask Mandate by increased communication and signage. [passed by the majority of those present and voting; 12 in favor, 2 opposed].

Motion to request that Administration and the M.S.P. Executive Board have discussions regarding the threshold/requirements that will engender transition to virtual class delivery for the entire university. [passed by the majority of those present and voting; 14 in favor, 0 opposed].

Motion from the M.S.P. Executive Board to our members reminding of students sometimes conflicting attitudes toward testing, and the potential resultant diagnoses that may require missed class time. Members are encouraged to adopt flexible attendance policies. [passed by the majority of those present and voting; 14 in favor, 0 opposed].

In connection with the above motion has composed a communication to go out to the membership. Please see the following:

MSP Press Release about Testing/Attendance

Hello fellow faculty and librarians,

We have heard anecdotal examples that some students have been avoiding getting tested for COVID-19 because they are worried about missing class. Some classes have strict attendance policies wherein students are “docked points” for missing class, and faculty have heard that some students may feel sick but decline testing, because they do not want to be forced to miss class if they test positive (or feel compelled to miss class while they wait for test results).

The MSP executive board is concerned about the public health implications of this troubling news; as much as possible, we want everyone in our campus community to be safe and healthy. We are leery of creating a climate of fear in which students are resistant to testing because they don't want to face the punishment for missing class. A climate of fear puts everyone at risk. Everyone - students, faculty, and staff - must feel comfortable getting tested.

Neither the administration nor the MSP can or should mandate that professors adopt specific attendance policies in their classes. That said, the MSP executive board believes it is in everyone's best interest to help create an environment where no one is worried about negative consequences for missing class due to COVID-19. While the pandemic is ongoing, we strongly encourage unit members to be flexible in their attendance policies.

Sincerely,

The MSP Executive Board

Motion that an appropriate expression of condolence be sent to Arnie O'Brien, upon the death of his wife, Joan, on behalf of the M.S.P. Executive Board. The allotment will be \$100 for said expression. [passed by the majority of those present and voting; 14 in favor, 0 opposed].

Expression of Appreciation of the M.S.P. Executive Board to Levon Chorbajian and Carol F. Barry for their service to the Faculty Union as they step down from the Executive Board.

Motion: That an allocation of \$100 to each be set aside for an appropriate expression of appreciation. [passed by the unanimous vote of those 10 members present and voting; 10 in favor, 0 opposed].