

Resolution Opposing Residential Opening for Fall 2020

- A) WHEREAS, a pandemic (COVID-19) has changed the nature of how the world operates, particularly in terms of human interaction;
- B) WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 in the United States, North Carolina, and Jackson County continue to rise;
- C) WHEREAS, the UNC System has mandated a residential opening, and WCU Administration has confirmed that WCU does not have the authority to move to fully online instruction;
- D) WHEREAS, on August 5th, Governor Roy Cooper signed *Executive Order No. 155* “Extension of Phase 2 Measures to Control Public Health Risks and Save Lives in the COVID-19 Pandemic” through September 11, 2020, wherein:
 - E) WHEREAS, there are many public health benefits, economic benefits, and societal benefits to reopening K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for in-person instruction, but these in-person gatherings of students, staff, teachers, and professors will increase the risk of COVID-19 spread, even after all health and safety measures are put in place. (*Executive Order No. 155*, p. 2 at para. 16)
 - F) WHEREAS, the population of Jackson County greatly increases with the influx of WCU students and employees who live in other counties and states, and it is unlikely that the healthcare systems of the county are equipped to handle an increase in cases anticipated with a return to residential instruction; and,
 - G) WHEREAS, university towns across the country where students have returned have realized a lack of adherence to CDC guidelines, and some of WCU’s current “Fall 2020 Operations and Procedures” fail to meet CDC guidelines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCU Faculty Senate is gravely concerned about the health and well-being of the Catamount community and those in the region we serve (particularly those from vulnerable populations); thus, we oppose a residential opening for the Fall 2020 semester and stand in solidarity with those School Systems, Faculty Senates, and County Health Departments who have spoken out against face-to-face instruction during this pandemic. We furthermore call on the state legislature to guarantee funding to the UNC system, and financial assistance to affected students, if and when further outbreaks force schools to return to online-only instruction.

Faculty Senate Routing Form
(action/proposal attached)

I. Item Title: Resolution Opposing Residential Opening for Fall 2020

a) Brief Description: Resolution Opposing Residential Opening for Fall 2020 due to COVID-19

b) Initiated by: Yancey Gulley

II. Faculty Senate Action: approved not approved other date: 08/10/2020

Comments: _____

Vote: Voice Vote, Unanimous Voice Vote, Majority In Favor
 Electronic Vote: 15 Ayes 13 Nays 1 Abstentions

FS Secretary signature: Yancey Gulley date 8/10/2020

III. Provost: for information Recognition of Receipt
 for action..... approved not approved

Comments: _____

Person responsible for Implementation: _____

Provost signature: [Signature] date 11 Aug 20

IV. Chancellor: for information Recognition of Receipt
 for action..... approved not approved

Comments: _____

Chancellor signature [Signature] date 8-11-2020

Once finalized copies will be returned to the Provost Office's representative who will scan and distribute electronically to:

Chancellor

Provost

Chair of Faculty Senate

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (for catalog and handbook)

Associate Dean of Graduate School (for catalog)
Others (i.e. person responsible for implementation)