

**Sense-of-the-Senate Resolution on
Faculty Safety after COVID-19 Suspension
Professional Relations Committees
First Reading
May 4, 2020**

Whereas Ohio University suspended face-to-face instruction in March for the safety of faculty, staff and students and to help restrict the spread of COVID-19,

Whereas COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus,

Whereas people may be unaware they have the virus,

Whereas people may transmit the virus even though they are asymptomatic,

Whereas some faculty, staff and students are at high risk of severe infection and/or death from contracting the virus,

Be it resolved that when Ohio University returns to face-to-face instruction, those faculty who feel they are at high risk be allowed the option of continuing to perform their teaching, service and administrative duties through distance modalities,

Be it also resolved that when face-to-face instruction resumes faculty who share housing with or are care givers to people at high risk be allowed the option of meeting their teaching, service and administrative duties through distance modalities,

Be it resolved that this option be provided by Ohio University for all faculty,

Be it resolved that the return to face-to-face delivery of courses, as it relates to the COVID-19 health threat, be at the discretion of the faculty member,

Be it further resolved that if a department, program, or school feels that specific courses or duties cannot be adequately performed via distance modalities that the chair, or his/her designee, will work with the faculty member to revise their teaching assignments,

Be it resolved that no faculty member taking this option shall be penalized in any way on annual evaluation, for future workload assignments, or job security because of taking this option,

Lastly, be it resolved, that if this resolution is supported by the Faculty Senate, the Provost will sign this Sense of the Senate resolution in support as outlined in VI.B.4.F of the *Faculty*

Handbook (“The Provost may sign the resolution as reflection of support for the Senate’s position”).