

## **ACFS meeting June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ZOOM meeting**

This meeting was called by the Chair, Shawn Felton, to discuss the Coronavirus pandemic and the BOG review of campus plans for Fall semester reopening.

Chancellor Criser joined the ZOOM meeting and gave an overview of the progress of the plans, their approvals by the individual BOT at each campus, and began a discussion of some of the most discussed concerns. This including what to do at each campus and how to define a 'hot spot' of infections. The close collaboration and connection of each campus with the local department of health will be key to managing and making local decisions on how to address any hot spots that occur across the system. A brief discussion began on the predominant plan to have students not return after Thanksgiving break (or at least not be forced to come to any face to face classes). Two institutions were not specifically proposing this currently (FAMU and FIU) and a brief discussion from members at these institutions ensued to the reasons why they have chosen not to do this change in on campus schedule.

The Chancellor also mentioned that the FDOH is reviewing the individual plans at each campus and they he is hopeful that they will give valuable feedback on the plans. One member mentioned the concern raised that some faculty have secondary appointments in health care settings, what concern is there that this may increase risk for the campus (i.e. physical therapist practicing in the community and teaching face to face on campus). This is a new question that is good to raise in the discussions, potentially at the board meeting.

Another member raised a concern over a new convention being planned in Jacksonville that coincides with campus reopening. The Chancellor mentioned that each campus needs to work with their local community to mitigate and make decisions on risks raised by a variety of activities.

The Chancellor also mentioned to members that these plans are very likely to change – and that working with the department of health, if significant risks are elevated, then there is always the chance that we have to return to remote instruction (paraphrased).

A question was raised about reserves (can we tap them) and he responded that this is possible, there is a process based in statute, but that there are risks with the draw down of reserves, notably bond ratings.

A significant discussion of mask wearing and policing began, and it was clear that each member institution would have some guidance on policing, although not all members were convinced this would provide enough clarity on how faculty needed to be supported in the classroom.

A member asked about the status of the state budget, and the answer given was that recent activity (bill signing) had commenced but beyond that there is little information on this year's budget or next year.

A request to ask the Chancellor to discuss the need and support for wearing masks was made in order to make this part of the culture on campus in the Fall. The chancellor in his closing remarks indicated that he would be willing to work with this group again (meet again later in the summer) to discuss how to move forward the system in terms of racism and clear action to improve diversity and cultures. The Chancellor left the ZOOM meeting and the members moved to a discussion of the racism statement.

Several members were recognized for their work on generating and editing a statement on racism for the ACFS (Harrington, Michael, Schneider, Cavazos, Pelaez, Reinhold). Harrington read aloud the statement and subsequently several members suggested changes, including removal of some verbiage and insertion that would point to the positive statement already made by the BOG.

Several members were unclear as to who the target of the statement was (BOG, Administrations, senates?). A discussion of previous resolutions and the process by which this body had acted ensued to inform those members who are new and don't understand how the organization functions best to make positive change. The group that previously worked on the statement agreed to further refine based on these concerns and edits suggested during the meeting. Meeting adjourned.