

## RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND ALL IN-PERSON COURSE MEETINGS AND MOVE EXCLUSIVELY TO ONLINE COURSES

WHEREAS: Texas A&M University – San Antonio has an obligation to protect the health and safety of its students, faculty, and staff, as well as a civic duty to show consideration for the needs of the broader community, especially the resources of the severely stressed local hospital system;

WHEREAS: Texas A&M University – San Antonio community is not separable from the City of San Antonio and Bexar County and should support the efforts of local government to limit the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS: The University is a leader in the San Antonio community and should act in solidarity with local leaders and take steps to ensure that our day-to-day functioning does not worsen the current public health crisis, which, at the time of our drafting this resolution (July 21, 2020), is at a high level of severity with COVID-19 cases doubling every 16 days, 24.2% positivity rate for lab tests, and a “severe” Health System Stress Score, according to the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC);

WHEREAS: Multiple local school districts in San Antonio have announced they will begin the school year with fully online classes, even as school-age children seem to be less susceptible to COVID-19 than are adults, as a recognition that symptomless carriers can transmit the disease and to protect the health of teachers and staff;

WHEREAS: The City of San Antonio and Bexar County have high rates of poverty, diabetes, and obesity among their residents—risk factors for severe impacts of COVID-19 that make our University population more vulnerable to the virus;

WHEREAS: Health insurance rates, and access to healthcare more generally, in the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and among our University population are disproportionately low, making it especially risky to bring people back to campus;

WHEREAS: Many members of the Texas A&M University – San Antonio community live in multigenerational households, which presents a heightened risk of transmission to vulnerable, often older, household members;

WHEREAS: Many members of the Texas A&M University – San Antonio community are parents or caregivers for children who will not be in school or at daycare, making trips to campus especially difficult and risky;

WHEREAS: Texas A&M University – San Antonio serves a majority Hispanic population and the Hispanic population is disproportionately impacted by COVID-19;

THEREFORE, WE RESOLVE that Texas A&M University – San Antonio suspend all in-person courses for the beginning of the Fall semester of 2020, with the exception of labs which must meet in person.

Faculty Senate, furthermore, calls on the President to use the condition of COVID-19 community spread in the City of San Antonio and Bexar County to inform the decision of whether and how to resume in-person classes. This can include indicators such as number of new cases per 100,000 population per week, diagnostic test positivity rate, STRAC Health System Stress Score, case doubling rate, whether there are 14 days of declining cases, whether there are both 14 days of declining influenza-like illness reports and 14 days of declining COVID-like syndromic reports of symptoms, hospital and intensive care unit capacity, rate of community spread, availability of testing, and/or the development of a safe and effective widely accessible vaccine. Any new public health orders issued by the City of San Antonio or Bexar County should be adopted by Texas A&M University – San Antonio in solidarity with the community we reside in.