

R W2022.05

A Resolution Advocating For More Effective COVID-19 Prevention Measures on Campus Buildings From the Rise in Omicron Variant Cases

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

January 12, 2022

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Endorsers: Maria Wajahat, Brandon De Martínez, Bilal Irfan, Peter Tam, Max Stoneman, Caroline Theuerkauf, Luke Bromberg, Yaqub Ahmedfiqi

Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, since the end of Fall 2021 semester on Monday, December 20th 2021, there has been a steady increase in the number of average daily COVID cases in the United States, topping the numbers at the height of the pandemic in April 2020 at just over 781,203 daily average cases and 851,910 new cases on Wednesday, January 12th, 2022;² and,

Whereas, between January 5th, 2022 and January 11th, 2022, the 7-day test positivity rate in Washtenaw County stands at 20.7% and in the Detroit area at 33.7%³; and,

Whereas, Michigan hospitals are overwhelmed at present, leading to many adverse outcomes for patients in need of care for conditions other than COVID. As of January 3rd, 2022, Michigan Medicine is at 80% capacity and St. Joe’s is at 99% capacity.⁴; and,

Whereas, as of Tuesday, January 11th, the Michigan Medicine system leaders were quoted in a Michigan Radio segment saying: “The University of Michigan health system is facing its worst crisis point of the COVID-19 pandemic so far.”⁵; and,

Whereas, the University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council (UMPNC) executive committee released a statement on January 5th, 2022, indicated that the current omicron surge has exacerbated an already acute shortage of RNs and other healthcare workers and that allowing remote instruction and other remote work where feasible plays a key role in minimizing the spread of COVID;⁶ and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² [NYT- Interactive COVID-19 Map](#)

³ [MI Safe Start Map](#)

⁴ [Michigan.Gov Statewide Available PPE and Bed Tracking](#)

⁵ [Michigan Medine Warns Omicron Is Pushing Hospitals To The Brink](#)

⁶ [Ted McTaggart. UMPNC-MNA Dispute Chair](#)

Whereas, as of Wednesday January 5th, 2022, 1449 University of Michigan (hereafter UM) instructors and 200 undergraduate students signed a letter of support stating their intent or support to move university instruction and classes virtual for the first two weeks of the Winter 2022 semester in order to curb the spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant and sent the letter notifying President Schlissel, Provost Susan Collins, the Deans of the University, the UM Board of Regents, and UM Chief Health Officer Dr. Preeti Malani of the e-pivot.⁷

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG supports and affirms the needs of LSA students, instructors, and staff and the UM community at large in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG calls on the University to encourage virtual class attendance and university events until January 31st or until the 7-day weekly test positive rate falls below 10% in Washtenaw County in order to prevent any further spread of COVID-19 on campus and to allow faculty of elevated risk to have the option to teach remotely at their discretion; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG calls on the University to strongly encourage weekly COVID-19 testing for all members of the university community regardless of vaccination status; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG calls on the University to reimburse students who have to source their COVID-19 testing outside of the University in order to satisfy weekly COVID-19 testing, due to the CSTP policy that bars students from using CSTP testing centers for 90 days after they test positive; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG calls on the University to encourage a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours or positive result that is from longer than 10 days in order to attend a university event—including but not limited to in-person student organization meetings, departmental gatherings, and events taking place in university buildings—in the case that a virtual option is not possible or available; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG calls on the University to immediately re-launch the LynxDx testing component of the ResponsiBLUE app in order to consolidate all COVID-19 related information in one central platform; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG calls on the University to increase COVID-19 prevention measures and support services for members of the university community, including but not limited to:

- a. Increased testing capacity on campus through CSTP and free at-home antigen tests for students
- b. Free and available access to N95/KN95-level masks for all students on campus, which LSA SG can help effectively distribute to LSA students and staff in the LSA SG office
- c. Providing free and accessible quarantine and isolation housing options for on and off-campus students
- d. Providing carry-out options at all dining halls on campus
- e. Ensuring all classrooms in university buildings are upgraded to 6-12 ACH (air changes per hour)

Be it finally resolved, LSA SG shall send a copy of this resolution, along with a statement, to the LSA Dean Anne Curzan, LSA Assistant Dean Kelly Maxwell, Chief Health Officer Dr. Preeti Malani, Director

⁷ [Letter of Support for E-Pivot](#)

of Maintenance Services Stephen Brabbs, Senior EHS Representative Brett Goecke, and Michigan Dining Senior Director Steve Mangan.