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4 *ASG Senate Resolution No. 26*
5 Author(s): Senator Jack Switzer
6 Sponsor(s): Senator Lily Jones
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8 **A Resolution To Support Faculty Senate Resolution to Extend Face**
9 **Covering Requirements**

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11 Whereas, The attached legislation was passed by Faculty Senate last
12 Wednesday April 14th; and
13

14 Whereas, As of today only 22 percent of Arkansas' population has been
15 fully vaccinated and in Washington County 21 percent of the
16 population has been fully vaccinated.
17

18 Whereas, The Fayetteville City Council has not lifted the mask
19 mandate that was passed unanimously in June of 2020;
20

21 **Resolution To Extend Face Covering Requirements**

22 Author(s): Samantha Robinson

23 *Most Recent Draft Revision: April 07, 2021

24 Whereas, the Covid-19 pandemic is spread mainly by respiratory droplets transferred
25 from person to person;

26 Whereas, the University of Arkansas implemented requirements for face coverings to be
27 worn at all times indoors with limited exceptions and in public environments where
28 social-distancing measures are difficult to maintain to mitigate risk of Covid-19
29 transmission during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters;

30 Whereas, as of March 30, the Covid-19 pandemic has infected more than 30 million
31 Americans resulting in a U.S. death toll of more than 550,000 people and climbing;

32 Whereas, as of March 29, the 7-day rolling average of new Covid-19 cases exceeds
33 65,000 new cases per day, which is comparable to the summer peak of approximately
34 67,000 new cases per day and an increase in the 7-day rolling average of over 10,000 new
35 cases per day from just two weeks ago on March 15.

36 Whereas, five new variants of the virus that causes Covid-19 i.e., B.1.1.7, B.1.351,
37 B.1.427, B.1.429, and P.1 are circulating globally and, according to the Centers for
38 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are variants of concern for the U.S.;

39 Whereas, according to the CDC, there is “evidence of an increase in transmissibility,
40 more severe disease (increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in
41 neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced
42 effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures” in these new
43 variants of concern;

44 Whereas, all five variants of concern in the U.S. share one specific mutation called
45 D614G and evidence suggests that variants with this mutation spread more quickly than
46 viruses without;

47 Whereas, as of the week of March 13, all five variants of concern have been detected in
48 the U.S. and the CDC announced on April 07 that B.1.1.7 is now the dominant strain in
49 the U.S.;

50 Whereas, as of March 25, only 14.8% of Americans and 12.9% of Arkansans have been
51 fully vaccinated with an approved Covid-19 vaccine;

52 Whereas, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) extended Covid-19 vaccine
53 eligibility on March 30 to all Arkansans 16 years of age or older, it is unclear how many
54 in our general campus community consisting of over 27,000 students will receive the
55 vaccine;

56 Whereas, certain students, faculty, and staff of the University of Arkansas fall into high-
57 risk mortality categories if they become infected with Covid-19 and vaccine effectiveness
58 against new variants of the virus that causes Covid-19 is unknown;

59 Whereas, the seasonal influenza season in the U.S. typically begins in October and
60 individuals may dismiss Covid-19 symptoms as a simple flu;

61 Whereas the state mask mandate ended on March 30 and, according to the Associated
62 Press, Governor Hutchinson stated that school districts will likely have a local option for
63 masking and businesses can also have their own requirements;

64 Whereas, the University of Arkansas may re-open its doors for face-to-face instruction
65 without social-distancing measures;

66 Whereas, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), pandemic waves can be
67 separated by months and an immediate return to normalcy without mitigation strategies
68 might be premature in the post-peak period when recurrent events are still possible;

69 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Arkansas Faculty Senate
70 supports the continuation of the requirement that face coverings be worn at all times

71 indoors with limited exceptions and in public environments where social-distancing
72 measures are difficult to maintain, until the CDC declares the wearing of face coverings
73 in public buildings no longer necessary.

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75

76 Be it therefore resolved: That the Associated Student Government
77 Senate supports extending the face-covering
78 requirement because it is a university issue.

79

80 Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government stands
81 with the Faculty Senate in the effort to help
82 decrease the spread of COVID-19 at the
83 University of Arkansas.

84

85 Be it finally resolved: A copy of this legislation will be sent to
86 Chancellor Steinmetz.

87

88 Amendments: _____

89

90 Vote Count: Aye 24 Nay 11 Abstentions 5

91

92 Legislation Status: Passed X Failed _____ Other _____

93

94  _____ 4/20/2021
95 Caleb Parker, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

96

97  _____ 4/20/21
98 Julia Nall, ASG President Date