

FACULTY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma
Norman Campus


**STATEMENT ON THE FALL 2020 SAFE AND RESILIENT (SAR)
INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN**

July 15, 2020

The number of COVID-19 cases in Norman, Cleveland County, and the state of Oklahoma are rising dramatically. The University of Oklahoma created the Safe and Resilient (SAR) plan for returning to largely in-person instruction in Fall 2020 based on the strong preference expressed by parents and students for in-person instruction. We understand that there is an ongoing high-stakes balancing act necessary as we try to mitigate a financial crisis during this pandemic, while keeping everyone in the OU community safe and maintaining excellence in our instructional practices. However, given the current surge in COVID-19 cases in Oklahoma and Texas, we cannot prioritize finances ahead of faculty, student, and staff health. Further, the desire of students for primarily in-person instruction may not take into account that the safety precautions required for in-person instruction may foreclose the kinds of interactions that make a meaningful and optimal classroom experience, while still putting faculty and students at risk of exposure.

The position of the OU Norman Campus Faculty Senate Executive Committee is that

- a) **An instructor should not need to disclose personal or medical information in order to teach online.**
- b) **Any instructor should be allowed to teach their Fall 2020 courses online due to COVID-19 risk to themselves, someone in their household, or someone for whom they care.** An outbreak among faculty will surely result in serious illnesses, and likely deaths.
- c) **Departments should be given flexibility to allow faculty who deem it pedagogically necessary to move their course online for Fall 2020, to do so.** The instructor may find it infeasible to use pedagogies designed for traditional face-to-face instruction with the current restrictions on in-person engagement.
- d) **Whether a course begins in person, hybrid, or fully online, all teaching faculty must be directed to be prepared to pivot back to fully online** in the event of another full shutdown of campus.



Prof. Amy C. Bradshaw
OU-NC Faculty Senate Chair, 2020-21

Approved unanimously by the members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.