

Dear Members:

The Day and DGCE bargaining teams met on Tuesday, August 2 for negotiations addressing masking and other COVID-19 provisions. We are scheduled to meet again **THIS FRIDAY, August 5th at 9:00 am**. You can sign up to participate as a silent bargaining rep [HERE!](#)

A huge, gigantic, overwhelming THANK YOU to all of our silent bargaining representatives. Your presence and feedback is tremendously helpful to the team and your participation demonstrates our solidarity on these health and safety issues.

At this session, we presented our counter to management's most recent proposal. We feel as though we have made tremendous progress in creating a proposal that allows MSCA members to make decisions important to preserving their individual health and pedagogical needs in the safest possible environment. As part of the bargaining process, we recognized some of management's concerns around the costs in terms of testing, tracking member vaccination status, and classroom airflow. In turn, management recognized our desire to choose to require masks in our offices, flexibility for department and contract committee meetings to take place online and reestablish campus health and safety committees.

Still, Management refuses to move on certain items, such as:

- The right of members to require face masks in their classrooms, labs or in the library
- The right of faculty to hold remote office hours to allow for a decreased close contact and exposure
- Allowing members who are at high-risk for severe disease and death the option to work remotely should they choose.

One of our main points of disagreement is really a conflict over values. Management's position is to protect presidential prerogative to make unilateral health and safety decisions. Our stance is to emphasize public health, and to collectively bargain with presidents to set the minimum health and safety standards that we need in place to keep our members and our campus communities safe during this on-going pandemic.

Again, while we believe that a substantial amount of progress has been made since we began negotiations, we consider these unresolved issues to be of critical importance to the safety of our members, as well as the educational environment that we provide for our students.

Please join us this Friday at **9:00 AM** as we continue to advocate for these measures to ensure a safe and productive return to campus.

Again, you can sign up to participate as a silent bargaining rep [HERE!](#)

With much gratitude,
The Day and DGCE bargaining teams