

## UNIVERSITY STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL

### WEB SUBMISSIONS

July 2020

The following web submissions will be discussed during the July 14, 2020 meeting. This document will be updated with responses following the meeting.

**Idea/Rationale: Could you please update the USAC election procedures in regards to the two at-large members from the “Student Development and Chaplaincy”?** At the time the new USAC elections protocol as developed several years ago, the Chaplaincy was its own division separate from Student Development. It has since been merged with the Student Development division so there is no longer a need to refer to these representatives as being from the “Student Development and Chaplaincy divisions.” Simply referring to these representatives as being from “the Student Development division” would be more appropriate. Thank you.

**Response:** *Thank you for your observation. This update was made to the USAC website on July 1, 2020 by Melody Wilson.*

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**Idea/Rationale: Say No to Signing COVID Liability Waivers.** Please see the article below about universities that are planning to or have required faculty and staff to sign liability waivers regarding COVID. I think it's absolutely critical that the Senate and USAC develop a policy right now so that we're prepared in the case that the University make such a request. I've already sent a similar message to two Senators. <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-06-25/op-ed-covid-colleges-fall-waivers>

**Response:** *Per an email communication with Dave Hale on June 29, 2020, “We do not plan to ask employees to sign any sort of liability waiver.”*

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**Idea/Rational:** Jessica Washington is submitting on behalf of a constituent with their permission: “I have a question that I am hoping to get some insight from you on. I have sat through a number of sessions with faculty around their concerns for the fall and I am curious has there been a session to address the concerns of staff at UR. There seems to be a gap in that there is a lot of conversation and forums where faculty are addressing their concerns with returning, but I have not seen anything that allows staff to do so. I know you are involved with USAC and this seems like something this group would host, especially so that upper administration can hear those concerns. **Has there been any platform or survey that addresses staff concerns around the return to campus in August?**”

**Response:** *Council members discussed this item during closed session. There was consensus that staff should have an opportunity to express questions and concerns about the University's response to the coronavirus (e.g., [Reopening Plan](#) and the [Physical Distance Framework](#)) in a way that feels equitable to faculty. This concern and subsequent recommendations will be shared with University Leadership. Additionally, USAC will highlight (via the July Roundup email to constituents) existing mechanisms for staff to submit questions and concerns about the University's response.*