CPUC Meeting  
September 20, 2021 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM EST

Agenda:

- Opening of the year business: Approval of the Order of Business for 2021-2022 and of committee assignments/Welcome to the CPUC [Provost Deborah Prentice, 15 minutes]
- Question and answer period. [15 minutes]
- COVID Updates [Director of Environmental Health and Safety Robin Izzo, 15 minutes]
- Introduction of new Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett ’97 [Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett ’97, 5 minutes]
- Update on principles and process to govern dissociation [Vice President and Secretary Hilary Parker, 15 minutes]
- Campus construction update [Executive Vice President Treby Williams, 15 minutes]

Opening of the year business

Provost Prentice: Proposed updates to the Naming Committee Charge include a third charge: in addition to recommending names and providing guidance, the Committee would be charged with proactively developing a list of names/events to inform the University’s continued efforts to express its history. Another change, which is not substantive, is to reflect the change of the name of the Board committee that the Naming Committee reports to, from the Resources Committee of the Board to the Advancement Committee of the Board.

Question and answer period

Question: What are the conditions for lifting masking restrictions and how was the decision made to continue the masking restriction this month?

Answer:

President Eisgruber: Our goal is to have as normal a year as possible, and Director Izzo will speak more to the decision-making process in her presentation. Three things. First, based on observing other college campuses, bursts can happen, and they require more extreme measures to “squash,” so the current mask guidelines are preferable to such extreme measures in the event of a burst. Second, we are not using any numerical or mechanical triggers in the decision-making process. Third, there are still risky levels of COVID around us in the county and the state, despite the high vaccination rate on campus.
**Question:** Could construction begin each morning at the Art Museum at 9 am rather than before?

**Answer:**

**EVP Williams:** No, the work hours were pre-negotiated in the contracts with the construction team, so they can’t be adjusted. Furthermore, certain milestones need to be met before the winter weather constrains construction activity. However, we are currently in the demolition phase, which is the most noisy part of the process and should be finished in early November; the EVP’s office has consulted with administrative offices like ODOC and OVPCL to build into the contract provisions covering work hours stipulations that work around study times during exam periods; and University facilities continues to provide information to residents of Dodd and Brown Halls and to offer meetings.

**COVID Updates**

**Director Izzo:** The good news is that cases remain low, transmissions remain low, and there are no clusters, all despite some large events and in-person teaching. The cautious news is that surges can happen, there are still relatively high case rates in the surrounding area, there is a respiratory virus going around. To illustrate the extent of the respiratory virus, UHS has conducted 140 symptomatic tests and 1 came back positive for COVID.

EHS has made revisions to the COVID dashboard, including adding information about daily positives and more thorough descriptions for each risk status category. It is also true that there is more contact tracing now than in the spring because the lifting of campus restrictions has put more people in contact with each other. The delta variant is dominating the positive cases on campus, and almost all cases are among fully vaccinated students, because virtually all students are fully vaccinated.

The risk assessment process is not an “if, then.”

Testing continues to be an important part of risk mitigation on campus. If you miss a test day, just submit a test the next day rather than waiting for the next designated test day. EHS continues to monitor testing compliance and will soon be sending reminder emails to students in the event of noncompliance.

To address some FAQs:

1) *Why do the mask relaxation policies apply only to classrooms?* While any relaxation of mask wearing introduces risk, the policies are designed to address difficulties in teaching and class participation.

2) *Why do the mask relaxation policies that apply to students as well instructors only apply to small seminar settings?* Smaller settings mean that fewer individuals can be exposed to the increased risk of relaxing mask wearing.

3) *What is a class for the purposes of the mask relaxation policy?* There must be teaching, activities must be required for the degree advancement of the attendees, and there must be proper pedagogy as consistent with classroom teaching at Princeton.
4) Can event speakers take off their masks? Yes, but only in the case that the event or attending it in-person is optional.

Some information on vaccination. Flu season is coming up, so community members should get vaccinated against the flu; flu fest (vaccination drive) will occur in October. As far as a third/booster dose of the COVID vaccine is concerned, EHS will soon set up clinics, separately for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Distribution of third doses will follow state guidelines; currently, immunocompromised individuals and those 65 years and older are prioritized.

Question:
Professor Schaevitz: Is it not surprising that there is a respiratory virus going around considering the restrictions we are still under to protect against COVID?

Answer:
Director Izzo: The transmission of this virus is likely to result from certain situations in which there is low masking compliance
President Eisgruber: It is also possible that off-campus transmission of the virus is occurring, in settings that are not covered by the masking rules.

Question:
Isabella Shutt '24 [U-Councilor]: When might we see the effect of the eating clubs opening on COVID statistics?

Answer:
Director Izzo: Likely 3-5 days after opening is occurring, but could be up to 14 days.

Question:
Riley Martinez '23 [U-Councilor]: Might issues arise if there are unvaccinated students who repeatedly need to quarantine in succession with staying engaged in the summer?

Answer:
Director Izzo: All of our regulations surrounding unvaccinated students reflect state requirements.

Introduction of new Dean of the Faculty Gene Jarrett '97

Dean Jarrett: I have been holding strategic conversations with faculty and other stakeholders, lending three main observations. First, the Office of the Dean of the Faculty is a talented and dedicated office. Second, the office seeks to engage academic leaders across the departments in more strategic ways. Third, the office can continue to support faculty in many ways.

Update on principles and process to govern dissociation

VP Parker: This presentation covers work done on this issue since the Board adopted recommendations from the CPUC Resources Committee on this issue as well as future work. The administration has engaged in summer conversations with scholars and leaders in relevant
fields, rendering guiding questions surrounding metrics for climate disinformation and how to determine it. The results of these conversations will be in a public report.

A faculty panel has been assembled to answer these and other questions. Faculty come across various departments, including EEB, ECO, and engineering departments. An administrative committee will prepare actionable steps to the board based on the recommendations of this faculty panel.

All information on this process will be available at fossilfueldissociationprocess.princeton.edu.

**Question:**
**Dev Dabke [GS]:** Does dissociation include resource grants for graduate students?

**Answer:**
**VP Parker:** The faculty and administrative committees will be defining dissociation in full and preparing criteria for the board’s final determination.
**President Eisgruber:** Yes, it is possible that dissociation will impact grants from certain entities. It is also possible that certain engagements with a company can improve that company’s behavior even if that company is barred from our investment.
**Provost Prentice:** Note that similar decisions regarding sources of research grants are already made in other contexts by the various research offices.

**Campus construction update**

VP Williams: The new residential colleges will consist of four dormitory buildings across two colleges, which will house 1,000 beds, including some for “swing space” for housing students during future renovations of other dormitory spaces. This construction represents an opportunity to integrate environmentally friendly practices, including leveraging our large solar and geothermal projects. We are transitioning from carbon-based heating to geothermal heating.

East campus will include a new complex for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Environmental Studies as well as a new soccer stadium, given that the old stadium is implicated in the new residential college construction, a new geoexchange facility, and a new parking garage to accommodate 1500 cars.

The art museum will feature connected pavilions and paths “through” the museum so that pedestrians can experience the art of the museum without actually going inside.

**Question:**
**Stephen Daniels:** Are there any plans to adjust construction times either now or in the future?

**Answer:**
**VP Williams:** See answer to above