

FS Resolution on DU's COVID-19 Decision-Making Values

Whereas the University of Denver's Provost and Chancellor have expressed that the University will be implementing in-person classes for the 2020 Summer Quarter and Fall Quarter, and;

Whereas current events related to the COVID19 pandemic continue to develop in Denver, Colorado, the United States, and other nations in ways that cannot be fully anticipated, and in light of the fact that guidance for the University from local, state, and national authorities may contradict each other or be at odds with empirically based public health guidelines, and;

Whereas the University of Denver places a high value on the lives and well-being of all members of its community, and;

Whereas the University of Denver, a private university dedicated to the public good, plays an important leadership role in the larger Denver community, the University is called upon to set an example of ethical practice for all public actors in the Denver area engaging with the community at a time when public health is a primary concern for all community members.

Therefore, the Faculty Senate resolves that as decisions are made about re-opening DU for "in person / face to face" operations in the coming months and beyond, the following values ought guide the decision making of the University, including the new Task Forces:

1. DU ought work to honor as strongly as possible the needs of faculty, staff, and students who will not be able to return to campus in person for a wide range of legitimate reasons related to the pandemic. In this regard, DU ought aim to develop as diverse a set of work modalities and as compassionate a principle of workplace accommodations as possible for as wide a range of individuals as possible.
2. DU ought make every reasonable effort to include as much input as possible from as many impacted parties as possible in its design and implementation of solutions.
3. DU ought work to develop robust and realistic contingency plans for faculty, staff, and students with unexpected childcare, family-care, and other dependent-care responsibilities related to the pandemic. (For example, the snow-day policy of finding a substitute would be unfeasible in the case of a lengthy closure for K-12 schools in the Denver area).