

August 13, 2021

Dear faculty colleagues,

As we continue our preparation for a return to campus in the coming days, we have met with colleagues from USF Health, college deans, the USF Faculty Senate Executive Committee, regional chancellors, and other leaders to listen, address questions, and adapt our support and guidance to meet your needs amid the ever-changing conditions we face. We are also in close contact with the Florida Board of Governors (BOG), which oversees and sets operational parameters for the State University system.

Earlier today, President Law and members of her leadership team hosted a town hall meeting with USF faculty and staff to discuss university-wide mitigation strategies and health protocols. For those that could not attend, a recording of the live event will be posted shortly.

Over the past few days, we have heard from you, your department chairs, and college deans seeking clarity in planning for and delivering in-person classes beginning August 23rd. In particular, we have been asked what faculty can and cannot do to support academic continuity on campus and maintain the health and wellbeing of themselves, their students, and our staff? In response, we have prepared a clear and concise document entitled [Classroom Guidance for Instructional Faculty](#) (Fall 2021), which we hope will answer your questions.

Also, as you finalize your syllabus and upload it to Canvas no later than Monday, August 16th, you can find updated guidance and a syllabus statement pertaining to *Florida's Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity Act (House Bill 233)* [here](#).

Finally (for now), we are keeping a watchful eye on a tropical system that may impact our region in the coming days. As in the past, university leadership will provide updates as needed at [usf.edu](#), USF's official social media channels, MyUSF, and email. The onset of hurricane season and rapidly changing COVID-19 conditions remind us of the need for thoughtful preparation and flexibility (including the possibility of transitioning to temporary remote instruction if directed).

As ever, I thank you for your understanding as, together we navigate these continuing uncertainties. Again, please get vaccinated, wear a mask, and reach out to me at [provost@usf.edu](mailto:provost@usf.edu) should you have questions.

Best regards,

**Ralph C. Wilcox**

Provost & Executive Vice President

University of South Florida