Statement on COVID Vaccinations and Masking from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

August 12, 2021

1. We fully support the current position of the CDC that vaccinations remain the single-most important tool we have to stop the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and to minimize the chances of illness requiring hospitalization and death. We strongly encourage ALL OU students, faculty, and staff to vaccinate – if they are eligible and able to do so – and we strongly encourage that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks while indoors in public areas such as classrooms.

2. We encourage the OU administration to take bold action and devote resources to make vaccines readily available and creatively incentivized at OU, in order to maximize the vaccination rate on the Norman campus. We also encourage the administration to devote resources to promote the use of masks by students, faculty, and staff when indoors in public areas.

3. Further, we implore the Oklahoma State Legislature and Governor Stitt to reconsider SB658 and Executive Order 2021-16, so that we allow schools to take actions such as mask and vaccine mandates as they deem necessary to keep students, staff, and faculty safe.

Prof. Keri Kornelson
OU-NC Faculty Senate Chair, 2021-22

Approved by the members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.