

May 27, 2020

RE: Expanded proposal for safe workspaces and student access to computers and technology

For: The Faculty Senate Executive Committee to forward to the Pandemic Task Force Sub-Committee for Instruction

From: Senators William Fridley and Carolyn Fridley

Re-imagining the Conditions of the Academic Experience on Campus

Senators,

It is essential that students have adequate access to computers and internet in safe conditions.

Allowing faculty to choose the mode of delivery of their courses will result in fewer face-to-face classes and will allow greater attention to ensuring safe conditions for those activities and classes that are held on campus. Students who enroll – or who would have enrolled - in face-to-face courses will have access to campus, so for them we can re-imagine the structure of the academic experience on campus, featuring expanded student access to computers and internet. Currently there are five student computer labs on campus that can become spaces that are closely monitored, well-maintained, properly sanitized, achieve appropriate physical distancing, and can be made available, for example, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. M-F and weekend hours. These spaces could also serve as a means to conduct intra-campus activities electronically and at a safe distance (e.g. tutoring, advising, virtual office hours, etc.).

As we know, the five computer labs are *not* currently being closely monitored, well-maintained, or properly sanitized. Re-imagining these spaces would require a commitment from the university to provide personnel to ensure that ACHA guidelines are met.

For students who have laptop computers, space could be designated that is similarly monitored, maintained, and sanitized, with appropriate physical distancing.

Re-imagining the on-campus academic experience with safe workspaces for students is a means for Southeastern to offer a distinctive, adaptive, and innovative arrangement that is evidence of decisions made that are thoughtful, prudent, and effective.