

00:01
the case for no confidence ysu academic
00:03
senate october 6 2021.
00:06
on
00:07
october 6th i will be asking the
00:10
academic senate
00:12
to join me
00:13
in a vote of no confidence in the
00:15
administrative processes currently in
00:16
place to deal with the covid 19 pandemic
00:20
although in this presentation i'm going
00:22
to give you my reasons and i will note
00:26
the actions of specific individuals and
00:28
the statements of specific individuals
00:30
i am actually unclear as to ultimately
00:32
who is responsible for the policies
00:34
procedures and protections or lack
00:36
thereof as i will argue that have been
00:38
acted at ysu so given there's no one
00:41
person i can point to i'm asking for a
00:43
no confidence vote in the entire
00:45
academic or the entire administrative
00:47
process
00:48
and is this clear lack of leadership

00:50
combined with what i can only
00:52
characterize as blatant lies to faculty
00:54
staff students in the community at large
00:56
which compels me to call for this vote
01:02
to understand why i think a
01:04
vote of no confidence in the
01:05
administrative processes that have
01:06
surrounded kovid 19 is necessary or is
01:10
at least justified
01:12
i think it's
01:13
important to understand the timeline of
01:15
events
01:16
and to see how that timeline shows
01:19
just how in my opinion the university
01:22
has behaved poorly towards faculty staff
01:25
and students here at ysu so i want to
01:27
begin with june 28th this was when the
01:30
initial purchase order for air filter
01:32
upgrades so we've heard um on a number
01:35
of occasions about the increased air
01:38
filtration that's going on at ysu and so
01:41
an initial purchase order was put in on
01:43
june 28th so this was several months

01:45
obviously before the beginning of
01:47
classes giving the university time to
01:49
upgrade those filtration
01:52
systems what we now know
01:55
is at this point with these
01:57
the intent to upgrade the air filtration
02:00
systems um that
02:02
there was not at this time any intention
02:06
on the part of the administration to
02:07
mandate testing masks physical
02:10
distancing or vaccination
02:12
so i have a quote here from an email
02:14
from julie gentile responding to ryan
02:16
teach from the health commission in
02:18
mahoning county and they said at this
02:20
time on august 5th
02:21
that ysu is not mandating any of those
02:24
things
02:25
so it was the university's intention
02:27
at least this is what was stated
02:28
publicly that we are not going to put
02:30
any of these protections in place in the
02:32
fall

02:33
and there was an order apparently a
02:35
purchase order on the 28th that was set
02:38
to bring in these new air filtration
02:40
systems and and filters
02:44
what we know from documents release is
02:46
that the actual processing of that
02:48
purchase order didn't take place until
02:50
august 6th
02:51
so purchase order for ketchum walton for
02:53
ketchum walton from the majority of the
02:56
merv air the murder 14a 15 air filters
02:59
for campus buildings
03:01
is processed less than a month before
03:03
classes are to begin and 39 days after
03:06
the initial request now at the time that
03:08
this was put in and i think it's
03:10
important to note the date on august 6th
03:12
that the estimated deliveries of these
03:14
filters would be september 30th
03:17
one month after the start of class and
03:19
this doesn't include the estimated
03:21
installation time across campus of two
03:23
to three weeks

03:24
so on the fifth
03:26
we have no intention says julie gentile
03:28
talking to the mahoning county public
03:30
health of putting any safeguards in
03:32
place
03:34
and yet the very purchase order that was
03:36
necessary to get the filtration systems
03:38
that are supposed to be sufficient to
03:40
protect us wasn't even processed until
03:42
the next day until the sixth
03:45
now the time talking about just to give
03:47
some sort of background the day before
03:49
provo smith and julie gentile appear on
03:52
wfmj to make statements about what's
03:54
going on at ysu delta varying cases are
03:57
on the rise in ohio so at this point
03:58
we're up to approximately 2 300 cases
04:02
in ohio so it is higher than we had seen
04:05
in previous weeks
04:07
but still below what we're at actually
04:09
right now
04:11
on august 8th the very next day
04:14
the reporter

04:16
states here as i've quoted university
04:18
provost brian smith and director of
04:19
environmental and occupational safety
04:21
julie gentile said on wfmj
04:23
weekend today they're taking proper
04:25
measures such as updating air filtration
04:28
systems and do not feel the mass mandate
04:30
is necessary at this point
04:32
and again i quote we are continuing to
04:34
evaluate case numbers as well as
04:36
hospitalizations gentile said with those
04:38
pretty low hospitalization numbers at
04:39
this point and working with our local
04:41
health department ysu thinks and feels
04:43
pretty confidently that the testing
04:44
indoor air quality we're supplying to
04:46
faculty students and staff we have a
04:48
pretty good plan in place but at any
04:50
point things could change and we're
04:51
ready for it
04:52
so acknowledging we have a plan in place
04:55
well at this point this is two days
04:58
after the filters were actually the po

05:00
was actually processed
05:02
and we know that those filters aren't
05:03
going to be in place at this point
05:06
what does gentile say to the
05:08
um to the public on wfmj we have
05:11
upgraded our air systems substantially
05:14
now these statements were made after the
05:16
new filters had been ordered they
05:18
weren't even on campus yet and no
05:20
upgrades
05:21
had been made
05:22
so at best these statements were
05:24
discussed uh deceptive at worst their
05:26
outright lies
05:28
i don't know how any any other way of
05:30
sort of um parsing these statements
05:33
right we're going on and talking to
05:35
people faculty staff students the
05:37
general public who are looking and
05:39
saying what is ysu doing and why she was
05:41
claiming that they have substantially
05:43
upgraded their air systems this is on
05:45
august 8th that they already knew that

05:47
those filters weren't going to be here
05:50
faculty announced a protest after this
05:52
faculty announced a protest about the
05:54
mass mandate that we're not going to
05:55
require mass within those very few days
05:58
we're now at 3 300 cases
06:01
so again delta is beginning to surge
06:03
we're seeing these increases the faculty
06:05
announces ysu is preparing to meet with
06:07
local officials they said they said at
06:09
the interview in wfmj that we are in
06:11
constant contact or we are in contact
06:13
with local health officials
06:17
on august 11th after the faculty
06:19
announcement
06:20
we also have an email this is from
06:22
shannon tyrone to julie gentile
06:25
it concerns me and i quote
06:27
it concerns me that we say ysu will work
06:29
directly with local public health
06:31
officials to determine what guidelines
06:33
are appropriate to implement within the
06:35
context of our local community it's it

06:37
concerns her that they're going to say
06:39
ysu is going to work with these people
06:42
why when we will not be doing so they
06:44
are going to tell us to put mask
06:47
required plan in place to put a mask
06:49
required plan in place
06:51
so on the day that the faculty announced
06:53
a protest about no mask and also at a
06:55
time when ysu is planning to meet
06:58
with health officials two days before
07:01
that meeting they've already decided
07:03
that they are not going to follow the
07:05
guidelines and the guidance of those
07:07
health officials
07:09
two days later on august 13th
07:12
the union is the the administration
07:14
meets with young youngstown health
07:15
department union is denied access to
07:17
that meeting so there wasn't faculty
07:19
representation there no report has been
07:22
provided as to what was discussed at the
07:23
meeting what were the positions of the
07:25
various parties at the meeting

07:27
and we know at this point in fact prior
07:29
to this meeting publicly both the cdc
07:32
and youngstown city health department
07:33
were recommending mass indoors for all
07:36
people regardless of vaccination status
07:38
that was before this meeting even took
07:40
place
07:41
so ysu walked into a meeting knowing the
07:44
following the filtration system wouldn't
07:46
be upgraded in time for classes to begin
07:49
the policy at that point was still not
07:51
to mandate masks or testing or
07:54
vaccination
07:56
and they walked into a meeting with
07:57
health professionals
07:59
with the idea that they're not going to
08:01
listen to them anyway so we don't want
08:03
to make public statements they're saying
08:04
that say we are
08:09
so ysu eventually caves on the mask
08:12
mandate
08:13
no mention is made at this point that
08:15
the air filtration system has not been

08:16
upgraded so mass are now mandated but
08:18
we're still silent as far as anyone
08:21
knows the statements made before is that
08:22
we have already upgraded our air
08:24
filtration systems no mention is made
08:26
that they won't be made i won't be
08:28
upgraded on time by the time or by the
08:30
time classes begin
08:31
and no social distancing plans for the
08:34
classroom so at this point all we've
08:36
gotten was a mask to cover our face
08:38
there's nothing else testing distancing
08:41
and they've left us uninformed
08:44
they've left us they've left students
08:46
they've left staff uninformed that the
08:47
systems hadn't been upgraded
08:51
so what indoor air quality is ysu
08:54
providing again with no notice to the
08:56
faculty when when asked um john hyden
08:59
director of facilities sent
09:01
this this is something that has come out
09:03
since the 26th but was actually
09:05
presented to

09:06
was presented to the union prior to this
09:09
the myrrh filters that are currently in
09:10
use on campus are merv seven or eight
09:12
why she was ordered merv 14 and 15
09:14
filters but due to supply chain issues
09:16
they have not yet arrived the uvc light
09:18
emitters have been ordered that attempt
09:20
to kill viruses these also
09:22
haven't arrived and are not installed
09:25
they're looking into bipolar ionization
09:28
but that must be engineered ventilation
09:31
will not be turned off as we are
09:32
participating in not participating in
09:34
energy curtailment so basically ysu
09:38
agreed to masks and turned fans on for
09:40
us
09:42
again not telling us that these systems
09:44
hadn't been upgraded and
09:47
initially hadn't even planned to tell us
09:50
that they hadn't been upgraded nor were
09:51
they planning on actually requiring mass
09:53
of our students so allowing those of us
09:55
who might have children at home or

09:57
people that are immunocompromised or
09:59
perhaps just people who don't want to
10:01
carry the virus to other people
10:04
regardless of whether family members
10:06
feel that we don't want to be
10:08
complicit in
10:10
causing someone else to become sick
10:12
so here again the uvc air filters
10:16
excuse me purchase order for jci to
10:18
furnish install uvc lighting and
10:20
williamson hall air handlers to enhance
10:22
air qualities this was actually
10:24
processed two days before classes
10:26
started
10:28
so nowhere near
10:30
completion nowhere near being installed
10:32
again as we've been told over and over
10:34
emails had been sent out uh department
10:37
chairs had forwarded emails about the
10:39
systems and the upgrade to air
10:41
filtration and our contact tracing and
10:43
we're going to have surface testing and
10:45
all these things that we're going to be

10:46
doing except the biggest part of that
10:48
the one that
10:50
supposedly the most important part was
10:52
not actually done
10:55
first day of classes what happened on
10:57
the first day classes room zoom at ysu
10:59
again no social distancing all classes
11:01
are back to pre-pandemic size there's no
11:03
mass provided to faculty
11:06
which one of the things that we were
11:07
told would happen n95 mass require
11:10
medical authorization which was again
11:12
held up for those who had medical
11:15
requirements of masking turns out those
11:17
masks were never distributed because of
11:19
the lack of a check box
11:21
on the application form that told them
11:23
that you didn't have a number of
11:24
conditions
11:25
there were no cleaning supplies as far
11:27
as i know there have none been added to
11:29
the classrooms no ventilation system
11:31
upgrades aside from again turning the

11:33
fans on
11:34
um and no announcement to the faculty
11:37
that this hadn't been done
11:38
no standard procedures are put in place
11:40
to deal with students that refuse to
11:41
comply with the mass requirement again
11:44
college by college dean by dean how do
11:46
you deal with the situation where
11:47
student fails to comply do we call the
11:49
police do we call the chair do we send
11:51
them to the dean of students where is
11:54
this is there a standard procedure for
11:56
all of this and
11:57
is there enforcement outside of the
11:59
classroom so in non-eating areas where
12:02
students are gathered where masks are
12:04
down around their nose down taken off
12:06
completely who is it that's responsible
12:08
to make sure that students are abiding
12:10
by the policy that the u that the
12:12
university has put in place none of this
12:14
by the first day of classes was clear
12:16
and meetings subsequent meetings after

12:18
that first day um didn't
12:20
actually clear up much either
12:24
so the second day of classes we are now
12:26
at 5900 on august 31st
12:30
so again starting with somewhere around
12:32
2300 by the time the second day of
12:33
classes arrive we're at 59 100 cases in
12:36
ohio and they continue to rise
12:41
so what do we have as of the 29th
12:43
and just after ohio's been averaging
12:46
about 6400 cases per day for the last 21
12:49
days
12:50
daily case numbers have gone as high as
12:51
9 000 since class started and mahoning
12:54
county in mahoning county we know that
12:57
47.88 of the population are fully
12:59
vaccinated only 47
13:02
and it's around 35
13:05
for people under 40.
13:07
again this was information taken from
13:08
the vindicator if anyone liked the
13:10
reference and the article um this was
13:12
information that was publicly available

13:15
so these are some of the indicators as
13:17
the 29th
13:18
the 30th four weeks into the fall
13:21
semester we're now september 30th we're
13:23
still struggling to distribute masks
13:25
it's masks it's only been a few days
13:27
since faculty have received masks in
13:28
their mailbox some in some cases faculty
13:31
still are waiting ysu was not included
13:33
faculty in any of the in any further
13:35
coveted safety discussions why she was
13:38
relying on self-reporting of positive
13:39
covid tests
13:41
and not actively testing students so is
13:43
not engaging in the active testing that
13:45
we see at schools such as cleveland
13:46
state and ohio university which are
13:48
actually having students come in take
13:50
tests so that they can get an accurate
13:52
sampling of how many people are
13:54
exposed or infected to the with the
13:56
virus
13:57
ysu also has apparently made a decision

13:59
on vaccine mandates after asking at the
14:01
first academic senate meeting
14:03
um what our views were and said that
14:05
they would be looking into this and
14:06
talking with other
14:08
stakeholders at the university um a
14:11
press announcement was released by ron
14:13
call saying ysu has an indoor mass
14:15
mandate but says they're not mandating
14:17
vaccines does that mean never at this
14:20
point i don't know
14:22
but it's it's unclear we also know that
14:25
hospitalizations among those under 40
14:27
and children has hit pandemic highs in
14:29
the last few weeks and again this is
14:30
also from
14:31
vindi.com which has reported these
14:34
health numbers
14:37
so
14:38
the issue i have with the way in which
14:42
our covet policies have been put in
14:44
place is that in one sense we have been
14:47
deceived

14:48
there's no way for me to say it other
14:50
than we've been deceived we've been lied
14:51
to about what the university has done
14:54
and it also seems that several people in
14:55
charge felt that no safeguards
14:59
were necessary when school started had
15:01
it not been for the protests that had
15:03
not been for that it seems that we would
15:05
have gone in on the first day of class
15:07
with no upgrades to ventilation no
15:09
social distancing no mandatory mass
15:12
state
15:12
masking no vaccination requirement
15:15
in fact we don't even ask students if
15:17
they are vaccinated we haven't even
15:19
asked to check how many of our students
15:21
are vaccinated
15:23
this to me is irresponsible and it shows
15:26
that i have lost all confidence in the
15:29
ability of the university
15:31
to
15:32
ensure the safety of the faculty staff
15:35
and students not to mention the

15:36

community at large in the community

15:37

surrounding ysu

No Confidence proposal - <https://youtu.be/l5hvqpT6pfE>