Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

☐ Senate Bill 328-

Senate Resolution 328-003

I, Anthony Joseph, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

Approve

Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:

The Path Forward Resolution

DATE: July 13, 2020

Anthony Joseph
President of the 328th Student Assembly, William & Mary
328th Student Assembly,
Senate Bill 328-003

A Resolution
To propose a proper plan for the coming school year

The Path Forward Resolution

Sponsored by: Will Wasson (Law Senator ‘21); Nick Matuszewski (Law Senator ‘21)

Supported By: Peter R. Hayden (Business Senator ‘21)

WHEREAS, on March 11th 2020 COVID-19 (commonly referred to as the Coronavirus) was officially called a global pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, as of July 2nd more than 130,000 people have died in three months, in the United States alone, of COVID-19 - more than the total number of Americans that died due to combat in the Iraq War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, Korean War, and to date in the Afghanistan War combined;

WHEREAS, the widespread usage of face coverings can greatly reduce the rate at which COVID-19 spreads and, thus, save lives;

WHEREAS, college students do not always make the wisest decisions and these ill-advised actions can result in irreparable harm to others’ health and safety;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, both in number of cases and number of deaths, and therefore bringing students back to campus is likely to disproportionately affect those communities on William & Mary’s campus;

WHEREAS, most recently cases in COVID-19 are on the rise most predominantly amongst young people, which can have health effects on them and their families for the rest of their lives;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 seriously impacted the William & Mary community in a way that is nearly unprecedented by creating a scenario in which students, faculty, and staff are daily asked to make the decision to potentially put themselves and their families in harm's way for the pursuit of education;

WHEREAS, on March 16th, 2020 the President of the United States made an announcement discouraging all gatherings of more than 10 people;

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1 Deaths in Vietnam; Deaths in Korea; Deaths in the Gulf War; Deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq.
2 Why Masks are Important
3 Alabama Students' Ill-Advised Actions
4 Young People Are Getting Covid-19; Long Term Effects of COVID-19
WHEREAS, on March 19th, 2020 President Rowe made the announcement that the college of William & Mary would remain physically closed throughout the remainder of the semester and would hold virtual classes;

WHEREAS, on March 17th, the William & Mary Student Assembly held a special Q&A on the pandemic and how it would react as an organization;

WHEREAS, on June 12th 2020, William & Mary announced the “Path Forward” which detailed several points about the fall academic schedule, how student life would be changed due to the pandemic, and other general decisions made by the college in the preceding months;

WHEREAS, this plan included the announcement that W&M would resume in-person instruction, at least in part, and was welcoming back a huge majority of students;

WHEREAS, on June 26th, 2020 William & Mary announced further planning details about work schedules and how members of the W&M community’s health would be protected in the fall community - including which and how many staff will be required to work in-person, and what PPE students would be provided with;

WHEREAS, On July 1st, 2020 William & Mary released further information about the plan for the Fall semester, which included more information about online instructional decisions and outlined that it would be at the discretion of individual professors and supervisors to decide which classes would be made available on an online format and put the onus on students to enroll in the classes that would be online if they wished to take remote classes;

Now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of the College of William and Mary:

1. Calls for the administration to enact the following policies and endorses the policies which have already been announced:
   a. require all W&M community members to wear a mask in all public spaces;
   b. allow all employees who are able to work from home to work from home;
   c. allow any student who wants to “opt-out” of in-person classes and instead take remote classes to do so, regardless of whether they have medical reasons or not, because of the intense anxiety and safety concerns students might have;
   d. institute a policy that dismantles barriers for W&M community members to be tested for COVID-19, at the Health Center or elsewhere;
   e. give all sanitation staff and any other staff that deals directly with the sanitation of campus spaces hazard pay;
   f. add a note to all official transcripts requested for the previous and upcoming semesters that were/are affected by the global pandemic to indicate how the semester was affected and/or what the student body was forced to endure;
g. requests an official centralized document that outlines the activities that will and will not be allowed for students to do in the fall semester;

h. requests that all academic decisions begin and end with leniency due to the intense anxiety, pressure, and isolation almost all students will feel regardless of whether they’re learning remotely or in-person;

i. formalize a plan to ensure that international students are able to safely remain on campus if they choose to do so.

2. Takes the official position that no student organization or team should hold any in-person events or competitions and should only hold small social meetings of 25 or less people in-person, on or off campus and the violation of either of these positions will be taken into consideration at their next budget request.

a. Suggests other funding organizations make similar funding stipulations for the upcoming year.

b. Encourages student organizations to encourage healthy practices by their members throughout the pandemic. It will be taken into consideration at budget hearings for organizations that are able to show they actively supported safety precautions.

c. Recognizes that both of these expectations apply to the Student Assembly just as much as any other student organization and commits to holding all events and social meetings of more than 25 people in a virtual setting.

d. Charges the Secretary of Outreach, in conjunction with the bill authors and any other interested parties, to create and send to students the “Path Forward Pledge.” Students who take this pledge should agree to maintain social distance, wear a mask, wash their hands several times daily, use hand sanitizer, sanitize their public work stations after use, not attend public events/meetings/competitions that are unlikely to follow safety guidelines, and any other pertinent safety guidelines.

3. Endorses harsh repercussions against any student or group of students that 
   intentionally endangers the William & Mary community by purposefully ignoring safety standards put in place by the administration. Because even one incident can lead to incredibly harmful outcomes for many in the community, the sanction for violating any policy created for the health of students, faculty, or staff should be an immediate transition to remote learning for that / those student(s).

   a. Calls on the administration to recognize that any student or groups of students that intentionally endangers the William & Mary community by purposefully ignoring safety standards put in place by the administration are in violation of The Student Code of Conduct Section III. Subsection A Part 2.

4. Asks for more support for mental health staffing on campus to handle the unavoidable increase in pressure, mental strain, and deterioration that will occur over the upcoming accelerated semester.

5. Calls on the William and Mary administration to keep in mind that there may be sudden and unforeseen circumstances in the coming semester, and to keep the mental health of students as an utmost priority. This would include a possible transition to another pass/fail semester if other institutions move in that direction or if the William & Mary campus is impacted by the virus due to widespread infection or illness. In addition, because the administration openly admits that students will become infected with the virus, these students should not lose their scholarship or
grant monies simply because they wanted to continue their education and the administration allowed them to come back to campus.

6. Calls on the administration to add to the vaccination list the COVID-19 vaccine once it becomes readily available, requiring all students, receive said vaccination unless their primary care physician says they cannot, due to other underlying health reasons. Further, those students who are medically unable to receive the vaccination should be required to attend class remotely until the administration and pertinent health officials feel confident that unvaccinated peoples no longer pose a significant health risk to themselves or others. However, if their primary care physician suggests or creates any other effective form(s) of treatment then those students will be allowed on campus granted the Student Health Center agrees with their physician's form of treatment.

7. Calls on the Administration to acknowledge that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, both in number of cases and number of deaths, and to respond to this reality adequately.