

8 September 2021

To members of the University Council,

We, a group of more than 50 teaching staff from a range of Leiden University's faculties, have come together to form a concern group under the banner of #Teaching_Safely_in_a_Pandemic @ Leiden University.

Respectful of the diversity of views on these matters among teaching staff, students, and all other members of the University Community, we invite current teaching staff to consider supporting or not supporting our Statement of Concern, which we submitted in the University Board on 3 September regarding the contents and implementation of arrangements for in-person teaching this term. You can view the statement and sign and share the petition at [petities.nl](https://leidenuniduringpandemic.petities.nl/) via this link:

<https://leidenuniduringpandemic.petities.nl/>



[Teaching safely in a pandemic at Leiden University - Petities.nl](https://leidenuniduringpandemic.petities.nl/)

leidenuniduringpandemic.petities.nl

You can express your support for the initial statement of our group, Teaching Safely in a Pandemic @ Leiden University, which has been forwarded to the University Board on 3 September 2021. The statement may be viewed here (<https://surfdrive.surf.nl/files/index.php/s/f3Ta8bGCtTPZCBx>).

With respect to members of the University Council and its student members in particular, we wish to emphasize our absolute commitment to your learning and we appreciate your understanding regarding concerns among staff for their personal safety as well as yours, and also the bases of our reservations regarding the content, adoption, and rollout of in-person teaching at present.

On 7 September we had meetings with the faculty boards of two Leiden University faculties. We were especially encouraged by the tenor and constructiveness of our discussions with the Dean and roughly 40 colleagues of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

We would be delighted to meet with the University Council and would also be grateful if you would share this with your membership. We look forward to working together with you and your members. We ask for your support for the following. Our foremost concerns are:

- To insist that University staff be consulted and not simply informed on critical safety matters;
- To affirm the principle that teaching staff, like students, be permitted to select the mode of instruction and not be required to defend their legitimate health and safety concerns.
- To ask the university to require masking and (where possible) distancing in all buildings and classes for the beginning of the semester so as not to place undue onus on staff for this common safety measure.

We would be happy to be present at any of your meetings as you see fit.

Thank you for your time and wishing you all the best,

On behalf of 50+ members at Teaching Safely in a Pandemic @ Leiden

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