



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

88th Session, 2020-2021

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A REOPENING AND MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE E.L. WIEGAND FITNESS CENTER FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2021

Resolution Number: 110

Authored By: Senator Torres and Senator Keller

Sponsored By: The Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness

Whereas, President Brian Sandoval of the University of Nevada, Reno decided to close the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center as of Thursday, October 8th, 2020;

Whereas, according to the email¹ sent by President Sandoval on October 6th, 2020, the mitigation plan only gave faculty and students 2 days' notice of the gym closure, therefore putting student workers out of employment with limited notice and leaving students forced to pay for a facility they now cannot use;

Whereas, the announcement of shutting down the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center by President Sandoval does not reflect the needs and voices of students;

Whereas, as student leaders, the ASUN Legislative Branch has a responsibility to write resolutions in the best interest of students;

Whereas, forty-six student workers at the fitness center have lost their jobs as a result of the closure and did not receive hazard or continued pay after the gym closure;

Whereas, none of the fitness center staff was made aware of positive cases coming into the gym since the university failed to let any of them know;

¹ Sandoval, Brian. "Re: Student Announcement – University mitigation efforts to 'Protect the Pack'." Message to UNR Undergrads. 06 October 2020. E-mail.

Whereas, according to the former employees of the fitness center, there was no real plan from upper administration to their department on how to deal with the issue of student employee pay;

Whereas, after the closure of the university in Spring Semester 2020, student workers at the Joe Crowley Student Union still received biweekly pay even after the building closed;

Whereas, employees at the Joe Crowley Student Union were paid according to their total amount of hours for the month of February after the closure of the university in the Spring 2020 semester;

Whereas, according to President Sandoval's email, other hubs on campus that serve the majority of students, such as the Knowledge Center and the Joe Crowley Student Union, are to remain open after the Thanksgiving Holiday. These buildings have similar or identical restrictions regarding social distancing and cleaning procedures;

Whereas, the document sent out by Assistant Professor Nicholas Murray Ph.D. and Associate Professor Nora Constantino Ph.D. to the ASUN Senators urges upper administration to be more transparent to the university community as the fitness center is a vital service to faculty and students;

Whereas, proper disinfecting on surfaces causes the contraction of SARS-CoV-2 very unlikely;²

Whereas, according to studies,³ the use of face coverings and masks block up to 99.5% of aerosol transmissions with a 2-3-layer cloth face covering. A single-layer cloth face covering blocks 95.15% of the virus transmissions;

Whereas, some of the many protocols at the fitness center before consisted of:

- Maintaining the building at half-capacity
- Limiting the amount of people in workout area or fitness room at a time
- Continuously disinfecting equipment every day
- Student-workers constantly checking attendees for proper mask-wearing;

² <https://academic.oup.com/ofid/article/7/9/ofaa396/5899802>

³ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.19.20071779v1.full.pdf>

Whereas, working out and keeping fit is an essential part of maintaining physical⁴ and mental⁵ health. This is extremely important during this time of COVID-19 and has been expressed by university students since the closure;

Whereas, the current petition in support of reopening the fitness center has accumulated over 4,200 signatures as of October 6, 2020;⁶

Whereas, according to the public comment made by President Sandoval at the ASUN Senate meeting held on October 14th, 2020, President Sandoval said about concerns, “Please continue to give us ideas. We want to hear them and maybe implement them;”⁷

Whereas, a detailed mitigation plan in the event of closing the fitness center would give student-workers time to adjust and transition into a different job and/or leave their current residence;

Whereas, for extra funds to benefit students as Vice President Austin Brown expressed during public comment at the Senate meeting on October 14th, 2020 saying, “funding should go to student support services;”⁸

Be it resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno supports a more structured reopening and reclosure mitigation plan for the fitness center come Spring Semester 2021;

Be it further resolved that, the Legislative Branch of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno urge the Executive Branch to work towards a financial aid plan for student-workers, who were displaced because of facility closures;

Be it further resolved that, upper administration take into consideration the outline provided in Addendum A, which contains suggestions of a detailed reopening and reclosure mitigation plan for the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center;

Be it further resolved that, this piece of legislation be sent to University President Brian Sandoval, Vice President of Student Services Shannon Ellis, Medical Director of the Student Health Center Cheryl Hug-

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5982006/>

⁵ <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2016.04.030>

⁶ <https://www.change.org/p/university-president-brian-sandavol-keep-the-unr-fitness-center-open>

⁷ <http://nevadasagebrush.com/blog/2020/10/16/asun-senate-10-14-gym-closure-resignation-asun-budget/>

⁸ <http://www.nevadaasun.com/meetings/senate-of-the-associated-students-24/>

English M.D, ASUN President Dominique Hall, Assistant Professor Nicholas Murray Ph.D., Associate Professor Nora Constantino Ph.D., Director of the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center James Fitzsimmons, and Associate Director of the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center Sheena Harvey.

Adopted in Senate on November 18th, 2020

Attest:

Hope Cronan, Senate Secretary

Keegan Murphy, Speaker of the Senate

Addendum A

INTRODUCTION

Should the University of Nevada, Reno continue its plans to reopen the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center starting in Spring 2021, the following steps and procedures are advocated for within this resolution in order to ensure transparency, communication, and safety of students are being upheld.

RE-OPENING MITIGATION PROCEDURES

1. Maintain half capacity of the fitness center, along with the current requirement of face masks or face covering on at all times during the use of the gym.
2. Continue with all the safety procedures that had been previously implemented.
3. Increase tracking of the Fitness Center, both workers and students using the facility to ensure safety protocols are being followed and that there is a tracking system that all students consent to be utilized (This can include the option of a COVID-19 survey as is used for other buildings on UNR).
4. Automatically enforce the closure of the gym for a two-hour cleaning procedure as had been implemented in late September and early October prior to the closing of the gym.

POTENTIAL RE-CLOSURE PROCEDURES

1. Allow students and student workers from the gym a two-week minimum notice of closure should cases increase once again.
2. Following the two-week minimum notice of closures, student workers should receive a two-week minimum pay based on the individual employee's average number of hours worked per week prior to closing.
3. The two-week closure should be step by step rather than an abrupt closure to ensure renting of equipment is still utilized and that student workers have the ability to find employment elsewhere provided many Fitness Center workers relied on their employment for rent, tuition, and overall expenses.
4. Given that many student workers were unaware of how the COVID-19 cases on campus and in regard to the closure of the Wiegand Fitness Center, should future cases lead to another closure, there should be a prior releasing of where the COVID information is being obtained (Note: the privacy of students and faculty should still be upheld, however, it is currently unclear how the University of Nevada, Reno is tracking cases).