



HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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Haskell Faculty Senate
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November 19, 2021

Dr. Pfeiffer,

We, the Haskell Faculty Senate, want to address the recent decision to not hold Fall Graduation 2021 in person and instead make it virtual. In addition to so many decisions that affect our students, that we as Faculty should be a part of, we felt the choice to hold it virtual without input from any of us nor students is flawed.

We as a school have been putting forward the message of “keeping safe, due to covid protocols” which we as faculty appreciate, but the actions of some of our departments do not address this. We have been doing our part, holding classes, whether online or in person with all the safeguards in place. However, our athletics department seems to be on a different level of protocols.

Our students see this, and many students are posting pictures online of fans, players not wearing masks and not social distancing. This is only adding to the tension created by the housing plan to let athletes be on campus and have sophomores and juniors stay online.

The recent email announcing that fall graduation would be online has deepened this divide and has many students (who will be alumni) upset with the school that we cannot hold an in-person graduation while athletics ignores covid protocols in place. The reason given for this decision was that “Haskell is still closed to the public and in orange status” but, we can have visitors for athletic events?

We, the Haskell Faculty, ask that the administration please look at this again and have an in-person graduation. We can do this for our students who have continued their education during this difficult time.

Haskell Faculty Senate