

ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION 2nd draft 7.6.21

Whereas the CDC, the State of California, and Cal OSHA have removed mask mandates for vaccinated people in California, and whereas students who have struggled with remote learning need to feel safe to return to campus to pursue their educational goals, just as students in the UC and CSU systems will feel safe;

Whereas the public health community considers vaccination to be the most effective and least harmful path to herd immunity as opposed to direct exposure to COVID19, and as the Delta and other variants pose risks to the unvaccinated, even as vaccination rates in the counties that send students to Las Positas College vary widely and vaccination rates among students and some demographic groups are low;

Whereas, as a public institution of higher education, our responsibilities to the community include protecting public health, promoting current scientific consensus, modeling critical thinking, and pursuing equitable solutions to challenging problems;

Whereas, best practices dictate that access to face-to-face instruction and learning support leads to greater retention and greater student success, a return to face-to-face instruction should be our primary focus, and whereas continuing to wear masks or enforce mask wearing for only the unvaccinated, separating vaccinated from unvaccinated students, and the like, interfere with certain types of learning and pose significant logistical and pedagogical challenges, and as asking staff, instructors, tutors, and vaccinated students to work and congregate in close proximity to unvaccinated students is not feasible on such a large scale;

Resolved, we have a vaccine mandate for anyone returning to campus as an employee or student with exemptions that are consistent with current California State and Alameda County regulations and public health standards;

Resolved, we resolutely embark on educating all community members so that they feel confident in their decision to get the vaccine, working with research on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, responding to various demographic groups who may lack access or be hesitant about taking the vaccine, modeling critical thinking and respect and responsibility, and pursuing engaging and personalized modes of information delivery and engagement. Simultaneously, we move to provide access to testing and vaccinations just as we do with other health tests and vaccines;

Resolved, we maintain a robust online presence of classes and student support services so that our students who are too vulnerable to attend classes and support services in person or choose to opt out of vaccinations still have access to instruction and support services.