



Thursday, October 7, 2021
Mt. SAC Academic Senate Meeting

Emergency Full Academic Senate Meeting:

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, Mt. SAC's COVID-19 response status, previous Academic Senate votes, and as a precaution to COVID-19, the Emergency Academic Senate meeting will take place over Zoom on Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 12:00PM-1:00 PM. Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: [Link Here](#).

You will be asked to register for the meeting by providing a name and email address. To join anonymously fill in name fields with guest and email fields with guest@mtsac.edu. Senators should not join anonymously. A link to the meeting will be displayed once you submit the registration. If you provide a non-guest email address, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Reminder: This is a public meeting and all are welcome. However, during motions and voting, only voting members of the Senate (Department Senators and Exec Board members) are asked to participate. Thank you.

In attendance: Tania Anders, Gene Ano, Mary Beth Barrios, Kari Berch, Shiloh Blacksher, John Blyzka, Melinda Bowen, Marissa Case, Elizabeth Casian, Susan Chavez, Joshua Christ, Kelly Coreas, Brenda Domico, Tim Engle, Sheila Espy, Jamaika Fowler, Marlene Gallarde, Scott Guth, Christopher Hallsted, Lance Heard, Jennifer Hinostroza, Tamra Horton, Elizabeth Lawlor, Jenny Leung, Nicole Lewis, Raul Madrid, Mary McGuire, Lucie Melendez, Sara Mestas, Elizabeta (Beta) Meyer, Dana Miho, John Miller, Donna Necke, Sarah Nichols, Bruce Nixon, Bobby Purcell, Kelly Rivera, Carolyn Robinson, Dianne Rowley, Lani Ruh, Kolap Samel, Michelle Shear, Cuyler Smith, Cara Tan, April Tellez, April Tellez, Janet Truttmann, Chisato Uyeki, Louis Vayo, Emily Versace, Ann Walker, Becca Walker, Roger Willis, Phil Wolf, Emily Woolery

Absent: Dalia Chavez, Fred Kobzoff, Stephen James, Chun Tak Wong, Chris Benoe, Ken Miller, Jason Kordich, Hector Sanchez, Karen Marston, Arleen Fiorito, Shelby White, Priscilla Rincon, Luisa Howell

Guests: Kristina Alvarado, Ellen Caldwell, Landry Chaplot, Dalia Chavez, Will Daland, Traci Ebue, Marlene Fernandez, Gabby Flores, Kim Garcia, Daisy Gutierrez, Karla Hernandez, Mike Hood, Carol Impara, Renu Katoch, Freddie Kobzoff, Shirley Kolta, Duetta Langevin, Julie Laverty, Jennifer Loreda, Catherine McKee, Barbara Mezaki, Kim-Leiloni Nguyen, Sierra Powell Vane, Aaron Salinger, Crystal Lane Sandoval, Natalie Solodjagin, Mica Stewart, Ellen Straw, Pauline Swartz, Naomi Avila, Mariasol Diaz-Gomez, Cyndi Erbe, Susan Wright, Jun Zhang, 2 anonymous guests

1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

By C. Uyeki at 12:02 PM.

B. Land Acknowledgment

By Lucie Melendez.

C. Agenda Check

Vote 1: Move to approve by C. Tan, second by P. Wolf

Approved by acclamation: Motion passes.

D. Public Comment

- M. McGuire: Compilation of ~5 faculty opinions: We should maintain a vaccine mandate. We should be certain to offer many DL courses, it's the equitable thing to do. There are students who cannot get vaccinated due to medical issues, but the public trust requires that we make sure they are safe as well. I do NOT support backpedaling on the resolution. A safe work environment is needed by the faculty and students. Faculty are being asked to do additional work because of the vaccine or test requirement. This requires that we police our classroom and takes away from pedagogical and instructional time. In short, we should be mandating vaccines for all faculty, staff, and students.
Many other countries (Portugal, Spain, others) are getting back to normal, because they have high vax rates. Is \$ driving this? Is it political?
On behalf of Ellen Caldwell: I am extremely disturbed that the college is considering reversing any portions of the mandate. On the contrary, we should be making a stronger mandate. Is this based on LA County health guidelines?
Have we looked at DL enrollment info? Have we asked faculty, students, or staff what they want?
- S. Nichols on behalf of Daisy Gutierrez: Many of my students have expressed real fears on receiving the vaccine and have also stated that it's unfair that Mt. SAC changed the rules on them two weeks prior to the term starting leaving them with minimal options since online classes filled up quickly and there weren't many online classes available to them. Don't create hurdles for our students by mandating a vaccine that we don't fully know is effective. The data is changing daily and we can't blame them for doing what we are teaching them: to think critically, ask questions and stand firm in their beliefs. We are being hypocritical by enforcing this on them. And if you do move forward with the mandate, the school should take full responsibility of any adverse effects that may occur by taking this vaccine. It would be a shame for Mt SAC to promote "we are in this together" and "the vaccine is safe and effective" and leave the students left hanging dry if an adverse effect does occur.
Both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated can catch and spread the virus. If the vaccine is really safe and effective, it should be enough for the vaccinated group since they're protected. Unless they themselves don't fully believe in it, which seems to be the case.
I leave you with this question: Why do the protected need to be protected from the unprotected by forcing the unprotected to use the protection that didn't protect the protected in the first place? Thank you.
- M. Bowen: Speaking as Pride Center coordinator: I brought up the all-gender bathrooms to Senate a few weeks ago. We have since resolved this problem. Bill Scroggins and facilities were very helpful and responsive. Please keep us posted if you see any problems.
- B. Meyer: Bringing up some items discussed at return to campus task force. I asked for data before cabinet makes a decision. I wanted to know how many students have been in and out of

class, how many classes have been disrupted, what impacts to GPA are there. What I'm worried about are classes, especially double ticket classes in my department. There are 60 students in a section who have to leave campus, they are given curriculum which is NOT DL-approved. The kids are going in and out, and I'm worried about certifying that these students actually know the material given all the disruption. I want to know if there's a difference between vaxxed and unvaxxed students. There is a difference in procedure. If all students are vaxxed and no one is symptomatic, you don't have to move class online. This will be extremely disruptive in winter, because if you're out for 10 days that's a third of the semester. Morris Rodrigue was reluctant to pull this data, it's not clear how they would pull it. Why is the college discussing changing policies without data? Also, the governor is requiring a mandate, so why would we go against that when it's statewide.

- K. Rivera, on behalf of Donna Necke, speaking for Adult Basic Ed: We need flexibility, and the current process works for us. Noncredit doesn't agree with a vaccination mandate, it should be a choice. I have had students get vaccinated because they were coming to class.
- B. Mizaki: I teach in AMLA, we have non-native English speakers. Some students have received letters from the contact tracers that are impossible to read. Some students have taken 2 weeks off, even though they don't necessarily need to if they test negative. The letter is poorly written and very unclear. There should be a captioned video version of this available, they should be able to ask questions of a designated person, not their faculty members. I shouldn't have to explain that letter, but I've done this on multiple occasions. It's hard to teach to my course outline when I have to do so much other work that's not my actual job.
- S. Blacksher, on behalf of Charis Louie: Here are issues that I think need to be addressed:
 - Require a negative test, not just a test
 - Contact tracing messaging needs to be more consistent (different people- both students and faculty- are being told different things.)
 - Contact tracing should notify instructors if a student has completed a form and has been contacted, so that faculty knows whether student can come to class; it's not clear whether filling out that form or being contacted by Contact Tracing impacts the student's "Cleared" status on our roster.
 - Don't concede vaccinations. Address student concerns about vaccination, whether due to being undocumented, or misinformation about safety, e.g., through social media campaigns, campaigns in Spanish, and messaging from people within their community.
 - Consider making vaccination exceptions only for students whose program cannot be completed online.
 - Clarify who decides whether to move a class online. In some cases, instructors were told they canNOT teach class online, even if the instructor had to quarantine. In another case, the instructor was told to stay home by contact tracing, then ASKED by our division if she planned to move her course online.
- R. Madrid: I think the mandate is the path forward. Public health officials have made this clear. City of LA is requiring vaccine to go into indoor locations, our classrooms are indoors. It's an equity concern that students lose instructional time when they are exposed. We should be a good neighbor to Walnut and other nearby cities, and not expose the surrounding community. The vaccine mandate is the path forward.

2. Action Items

A. Senate Resolution: Urging the Board of Trustees to Uphold Resolution 21-05 in the Interest of Safe Learning Environments and Public Health

C. Uyeki: Board of Trustees (BoT) [resolution 21-05](#): required vaccine or testing weekly for fall, but stated vaccine required for winter and forward.

Discussion with the board made it clear they thought it was a negative test that would be required. Board also called for a vaccination promotion campaign.

Reminder that we have regular meetings with instruction: K. Fowler, M. Chen, M. Rodrigue, etc.

At the end of last week's meeting, after discussion of glitches with wristbands and uploading vaccine records, they raised the possibility of asking the BoT to amend their resolution. Noncredit has been particularly worried about vaccines, with hesitancy for undocumented students. Admin felt that testing was working well, so they wanted to continue for winter/spring. We (Kelly/Lance/Chisa) shared concerns: Disruption to instruction (calling people out, they fall off the cleared4 list, checking the roll) and impacts to relationship in the classroom with faculty enforcing compliance. Also concerns about public health, as reflected in the board resolution. The resolution was written and approved by the Exec Board on 10/04 with one Nay vote.

Vote: Move to approve by P. Wolf, second by S. Blacksher.

C. Uyeki: Notes on process and the queue for commenting.

K. Rivera: I will read the resolution. 4 whereas, 4 resolve. Whereas establishes the evidence and groundwork for the resolves, which are the positions that we take. (Senate Resolution 21-05 is read.)

R. Willis, PRO: Initial email justifying this meeting stated that individuals in management were going to advocate for the board to change. C. Uyeki: We were told cabinet would request overturning the vaccine requirement for winter and spring. K. Rivera: This would include continuing current policy for winter/spring. R. Willis: Who is this in cabinet? C. Uyeki: K. Fowler, A Y-N, M. Rodrigue, M. Arballo, and others. Deans do not generally attend. R. Willis: I speak for my department. We would like to point out that we have bent over backwards for students. Sometimes it's important to think about safety and working conditions of faculty. We would strongly support a vaccine mandate, clearly the Cleared4 system isn't working. This is going to be required in other colleges and in K-12 education. Our classes of 30 shouldn't be down to 4-6 students on a given day. We are worried about safe working conditions. A vaccine mandate would make people feel safer, and more confident in returning to some degree of normalcy.

E. Woolery, CON: Speaking as an individual who has worked on faculty working conditions, not as FA president. A consequence of this mandate is that faculty will also be mandated to comply with this vaccine. Not complying could lead to discipline, including loss of assignment or termination. Many conversations deal with disruptions to the classroom and added workload. I advocate for solutions that would not threaten our colleagues with loss of employment.



Thursday, October 7, 2021
Mt. SAC Academic Senate Meeting

M. McGuire, PRO: Fully in support of this resolution. Trust would be lost among many, if not most, of the faculty, if the requirement is rescinded. It will damage the public trust if an institution of higher learning rescinds a vaccinate mandate. It sends a message that we don't believe in vaccines. Are we or are we not an institution of higher learning? Are we pro science and education? If you are for education, you should before the vaccine mandate.

L. Ruh, CON: I am speaking for some in my department, though not necessarily all. Many of our student athletes are vaxed, but not all. As we've seen it's not a guarantee – a vaxed football coach and 2 vaxed players still got covid and had to cancel games. It makes sense that there is still some mistrust. Students ask if it's my body, my choice in some issues, e.g. abortion, why not on this topic? Some students are contemplating leaving their athletic fields and/or school. I don't know if we can amend this to help keep some students on campus, e.g. for forensics, culinary arts, etc. C. Uyeki: Current resolution by BoT has exemptions for religion and medical exemption. L. Ruh: But current students couldn't continue their program. We're looking at losing 6-7 students on each of the men's and women's teams.

M. Bowen, PRO: Out of 15 students I surveyed yesterday, all 15 wanted a vaccine mandate. For many students the PRIDE center is a lifeline, and they are very worried that if things shut down again, they won't have that safe space. They are very worried.

Vote: C. Tan: Move to extend by 10 minutes, second by P. Wolf.

Roll Call Ayes: approved by all.

E. Versace on behalf of D. Necke, CON: There is community that does not trust the government, and I think we need to be a beacon for these students.

R. Willis, PRO: All state and national forensics competitions are requiring vaccination for in-person competitions. Thanks for including us with teams, but for our students they would need to be vaxed to participate in person.

Vote (in Kahoot):

Roll Call Ayes: A. Tellez, Ann Walker, Becca Walker, Beta Meyer, Betsy Lawlor, B. Nixon, C. Hallsted, Cara Tan, Carolyn Robinson, Dana Miho, E Straw, E. Casian, J. Hinostrroza, Jamaika Fowler, Janet Truttmann, Jenny Leung, John Blyzka, John Miller, Joshua Christ, Kari Berch, Kelly Coreas, Kelly Rivera, Kolap Samel, Lance Heard, Louis Vayo II, Lucie Melendez, Marissa Case, Marlene Gallarde, Mary B Barrios, Mary McGuire, Melinda Bowen, Michelle Shear, Nikki Lewis, Phil Wolf, Raul Madrid, Roger Willis, S. Chavez, S. Blacksher, Sara Mestas, Sarah Nichols, Scott Guth, Sheila Espy, Tamra Horton, T. Anders, E. Versace

Nays: Bobby Purcell, Emily Woolery, Lani Ruh, D. Necke.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes with 45 ayes and 4 nays.



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Mt. SAC Academic Senate Meeting

3. Closing Items

A. Information and Announcements

C. Uyeki: Board meeting is next Wednesday in person at Founders Hall. For those who responded to the survey, those were strong statements that the board would be interested in hearing. L. Heard: Note that the board has not taken a position on this either way. C. Uyeki: I think that's an important point. It's also good to tell the Board about things that are going well.

M. Bowen: How will the board see the resolution we just passed? C. Uyeki: I will attach this to my report, which they will receive on Monday.

C. Uyeki: I also note that we met with two board members on Monday, it seemed they continued to support the implementation of their previous resolution. I also think we need to do more to support and educate our students around vaccination. Other campuses are incentivizing vaccination and worrying about vaccine education. Students may worry about missing a day of work due to side effects of the vaccine. What can we do to support them and minimize interruption to their lives?

C. Uyeki: I will also send out info about attending plenary. There are some terrific sessions on Thursday and Friday, including one by Lance. L. Heard: Yes, there will be an email to encourage attendance, including in person. There will be a virtual breakout on how to be an anti-racist institution with A. Tellez at Plenary.

B. Adjournment

By C. Uyeki at 12:58 PM.

4. ADA Statement

A. To request reasonable disability related accommodations, please contact the Senate Secretary within at least 5 business days in advance of the event.

Respectfully submitted by S. Nichols.