

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

Academic Senate Resolution 2021-05

Whereas, The Mt. San Antonio College Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, §53200) and is primarily relied upon for curriculum and instruction, for grading policies, for student preparation and success, and for degree and certificate requirements (Board Policy 3255); and,

Whereas, To protect public health during the outbreak and spread of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19), institutions locally, statewide, and nationally are mandating vaccination for employment, travel, and education, including a gubernatorial mandate for K-12 students in California announced on October 1, 2021, as well as peer and transfer institutions including, but not limited to, the University of California system, the California State University system, the Los Angeles Community College District, Glendale Community College, Chaffey College, and Pasadena City College are requiring students attending in-person classes to be vaccinated for COVID-19 from Fall 2021 onward; and,

Whereas, Mt. SAC, as a public institution of higher education with a publicly elected Board of Trustees, has an obligation to uphold the Public Trust and has made a commitment to data driven decision making to protect public health and promote student success as reflected in the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees unanimously approved Resolution 21-05, that states “requiring employees and students who enter College facilities to be vaccinated is necessary to ensure the health and safety of the College community” and states that “effective with the Winter 2022 Intersession, students will be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 or participate in weekly testing if authorized for an exemption based on medical or sincerely held religious belief from vaccination to engage in on-campus activities”; and,

Whereas, Current vaccination or testing protocols in place for Fall 2021 are disruptive to the in-person learning environment as professors are tasked with verifying students’ Cleared4 status every class, taking away from valuable instruction time, and this process may impact students’ wellbeing, as being asked to leave a classroom to test is a humiliating process for some; additionally, the multi-day time delay between testing and obtaining results makes the present testing protocols largely ineffective in preventing virus transmission.

Resolved, The Academic Senate asserts that a safe learning environment for students and faculty is an academic and professional matter; and,

Resolved, The Academic Senate urges the Board of Trustees to uphold their Resolution 21-05, including the vaccination requirement for Winter 2022 and Spring 2022; and,

Resolved, The Academic Senate encourages the expansion and implementation of targeted vaccination outreach for “promotion of vaccination clinics” to support vaccination among the Mt. SAC community as outlined in the Board of Trustees Resolution 21-05; and,

Resolved, The Academic Senate reminds campus constituents of the College's dedication to "...enhancing personal well-being (and) developing critical thinking" as stated in our Mission Statement and emphasizes the need to maintain the Public Trust to protect public health and provide equitable learning environments in a safe manner including following all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health orders and guidelines for institutions of higher learning.

Contact: Kelly Rivera, Mt. SAC Academic Senate Co-Vice President and Sarah Nichols, Mt. SAC Academic Senate Secretary

Last updated: 10/4/2021

Recommended by the Academic Senate Executive Board to Full Senate during an emergency meeting on 10/4/2021

Approved by the Full Academic Senate during an emergency meeting on 10/7/2021