



LSU A&M Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

1:00 p.m. CT

Zoom Webinar ID: 938 2634 1559

Passcode: 977733

<https://lsu.zoom.us/j/93826341559>

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Consideration of Resolution “A Call to Add COVID-19 Vaccination as Requirement for Attendance at In-Person Classes and Events on Campus”, sponsored by Inessa Bazayev, Robert Mann, Michelle Massé, Olivier Moréteau, A. Ravi P. Rau, Jeffrey Roland, Adelaide Russo, Edward S. Shihahdeh, Daniel C. Tirone, and Meredith Veldman
- IV. Adjournment



CERTIFICATION OF INABILITY TO ACHIEVE IN-PERSON QUORUM

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NOTICE TO MEET THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS

Issued May 21, 2021

I hereby certify that the May 25, 2021 meeting of the LSU A&M Faculty Council will be held via videoconference in accordance with La. R.S. 42.17.1. The State of Louisiana continues to operate under a state of public health emergency declared by the governor. An in-person meeting will be detrimental to health, and the meeting is required as deferral of the Faculty Council meeting is viewed as causing hardship on the University. Pursuant to La. R.S. 42.17.1, the LSU Office of the President will provide for attendance via video or teleconference, in a manner that allows for observation and input by members of the public, including a mechanism to receive electronic comment both prior to and during the meeting, as set forth in the public notice of the meeting. Individuals may register for public comment at president@lsu.edu.

/s/Thomas C. Galligan, Jr.

Thomas C. Galligan

LSU President

LSU A&M Faculty Council Resolution:
“A Call to Add COVID-19 Vaccination as a Requirement
for Attendance at In-Person Classes and Events on Campus”
May 25, 2021

Sponsored by Inessa Bazayev, Robert Mann, Michelle Massé, Olivier Moréteau, A. Ravi P. Rau, Jeffrey Roland, Adelaide Russo, Edward Shihadeh, Daniel Tirone, Meredith Veldman

Whereas LSU A&M Faculty Senate Resolution 21-05: *A Call to Add COVID-19 Vaccination as a Requirement to the Existing List of Mandatory Immunizations at LSU* passed the Faculty Senate with overwhelming support (52–1) on April 22, 2021;

Whereas LSU Student Senate also passed S.G.R. 21-30: *A Resolution to urge and request LSU Administration to mandate Covid-19 vaccinations for students and faculty as a requirement for Fall 2021 attendance* on April 20, 2021;

Whereas the LSU administration has failed to address the faculty concerns and arguments expressed in LSU A&M Faculty Senate Resolution 21-05: *A Call to Add Covid-19 Vaccination as a Requirement to the Existing List of Mandatory Immunizations at LSU* and its appendix, and have announced that LSU will resume normal operations in the fall of 2021, with no vaccination mandate;

Whereas as of May 16, 2021, only 19.4 percent of Louisianians in the 18-29 age group were vaccinated against the coronavirus;

Whereas the American College Health Association (ACHA) [recommends](#) mandated vaccinations;

Whereas, as of May 20, 2021, [387 campuses](#) in the U.S. require Covid vaccinations for their students or employees;

Whereas classroom assignments for the fall of 2021 show a complete disregard for [CDC guidelines](#) regarding social distancing of unvaccinated populations;

Whereas LSU’s classroom and HVAC facilities are ill equipped to meet [CDC recommendations concerning aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2](#), specifically with regard to crowding and adequate ventilation;

Whereas the Faculty Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of Faculty Senate Resolution 21-03: *Continued Vote of No Confidence in the LSU Board of Supervisors* on April 22, 2021 in part because the ongoing Title IX noncompliance revelations reveal a systemic pattern of the LSU

Board of Supervisors and high-ranking administrators ignoring the safety and well-being of students, a pattern that continues with the resumption of normal campus operations in the fall of 2021, with no social distancing and no vaccination requirement;

Whereas the current policy of eliminating social distancing and not requiring vaccinations violates the university's duty of care;

Whereas it is incumbent on LSU as a principal institution of higher education to inform and lead the public of the state, now on the value of highly effective and safe vaccines against a novel disease, and to set an example by requiring it of the LSU community for the Fall semester,

Whereas the lack of a vaccination mandate puts not only students, staff, and faculty at risk but also the wider community, particularly those with conditions that prohibit them from being vaccinated;

Whereas LSU's refusal to require vaccinations contributes to low vaccination rates, which facilitates the spread of COVID-19 and the evolution of more lethal, more contagious, antibody-dodging virus variants, such as B.1.1.7 (first identified in Britain), [P.1](#) (first identified in Brazil), and [B.1.617](#) (first noted in India) all of which are now circulating in the United States;

Whereas a large cohort of unvaccinated individuals has the potential to severely disrupt learning because of the high likelihood of a virus outbreak on campus that will then require students to remain out of class for extended periods of time and potentially require a mass return to remote instruction;

Whereas students have reported increasing levels of [depression](#), loneliness, and inability to keep up with their classes in the remote learning environment;

Therefore, the Faculty Council resolves that PS–72, which requires other vaccinations, be revised to require COVID-19 vaccinations for all students wishing to enroll in in-person classes or other events on campus or implement a similar requirement via another administrative policy or procedure.

Should such a commitment prove legally impossible until the vaccines receive permanent FDA approval, then we demand the following:

- a commitment to adding the COVID-19 vaccination to the current list of required vaccinations and immunizations for all students, **as soon as** a vaccine receives FDA approval;
- and in the period before such approval is received:
 - immediate implementation of a vaccination incentive program for students (e.g., [on-campus housing rebates](#), [cash payments](#), [free parking](#), and [exemption](#))

- from the on-campus mask mandate, as other universities have offered);
- installation of suitable HEPA air filters in as many classrooms as possible;
 - immediate restoration of social distancing measures, including limiting capacity to no more than 50% of maximum occupancy for classrooms and other indoor campus spaces, and continued enforcement of a universal mask mandate;
 - implementation of a robust mitigation testing regime such as that used at Indiana University in 2020-2021, testing at least 8% of students, faculty and staff at random every week (with exemptions for fully vaccinated persons);
 - rapid implementation of a thorough, ongoing education campaign re: the vaccine versus the variants race--both on campus and throughout Louisiana;
 - immediate withdrawal of [Policy Statement 22, Part 3, Section B](#) that [requires faculty members to provide alternative assignments](#) for students who miss class because of COVID-19 quarantining requirements. Students who choose not to be vaccinated must assume the responsibility for keeping up with their coursework and fulfilling all requirements, even if they contract COVID-19 or must quarantine because they have been exposed to COVID-19.