

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 2021

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;

Whereas Acting President Thomas Galligan and Provost Stacia Haynie have 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 April 22, 2021, only 17 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 5, 2021, [221 campuses](#) around 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 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 as well as its role in advancing knowledge and understanding;

Whereas the lack of a vaccination mandate puts not only students, staff, and faculty at risk but the wider community, particularly unvaccinated children¹ and those with conditions that prohibit them from being vaccinated;

¹ We do not know if a vaccinated faculty member, for example, might pick up the virus from an unvaccinated student and transmit it to that faculty member's young child. We **do** know that children can and do contract Covid,

Whereas low vaccination rates facilitate the spread of Covid and the evolution of more lethal, more contagious, antibody-dodging virus variants² and thus the refusal by LSU to require vaccination in order to return to campus promises to speed the virus' evolution toward ever more resistant variants, eventually rendering all vaccination less effective;

Whereas a large cohort of unvaccinated individuals has the potential to be severely disruptive to 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 instructors to return to remote learning;

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 be revised to require COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible 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 FDA approval, then we demand the following:

- a commitment to adding the Covid vaccination to the 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;³
 - immediate restoration of social distancing measures for classrooms and other campus spaces and continued enforcement of a universal mask mandate;
 - rapid implementation of a thorough, unrelenting 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 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 or must quarantine because they have been exposed to Covid.

and we **do** know that more than 3,000 American children who have done so have been diagnosed with multisystem inflammatory syndrome. ([The CDC reports 3,185 such cases in the US](#) up to March 29, 2021.)

²The Covid variant called B.1.1.7, first identified in Britain, is [now the most common source of new infections](#) in the United States, is highly contagious, more lethal, and hospitalizing larger numbers of formerly healthy young people; the variant [P.1](#) (first identified in Brazil)—is now in Louisiana and has proven to be adept at dodging vaccine antibodies; the variant [B.1.617](#) (first noted in India), which is both more contagious and more resistant to vaccines, is now in the United States.

³ Other universities have offered incentives ranging from [on-campus housing rebates](#), [cash payments](#), [free parking](#), to [exemption](#) from the on-campus mask mandate.