

Dear Senators,

So as we discuss the best path forward I request that you review this document of guiding questions. This discussion is happening districtwide as well as at the state level. I think it's important to have a clear vision of our ultimate goal as well as an understanding of our role in advocating for students. They have to be foremost in our thoughts.

***Guiding questions/ Issues for discussion:***

What should our primary goal be for students this Fall? How do we get there?

The K-12 policies ensure that most students come to us vaccinated – what is our role in novel viruses?

How do we interpret resistance to vaccination? How do we distinguish between hesitancy (rational questioning of the vaccination based on past experience) and unwillingness (refusing the vaccine on principle)? What is our role as an institution of higher education in terms of dispelling myths and serving our communities?

What are our colleagues doing?

What is the effectiveness of an “invitation” and tiered benefits as opposed to a vaccine mandate?

How will this impact our enrollments?

Realizing that this is probably the first of multiple novel viruses, we need to look at this as “precedent”. What precedent do we want to set?

What strategy creates the most access for students? How do we proceed?

***If, we were to propose a resolution – here is a starting point:***

Whereas CDC guidelines identify herd immunity as the primary defense against COVID19, and that barring herd immunity, social distancing and indoor mask wearing is the necessary, but less ideal solution for preventing disease contagion.

Whereas vaccination is the more humane path to herd immunity as opposed to direct exposure to COVID19, and as we have made progress in vaccination numbers, there are still multitudes of US residents that remain unvaccinated. Researchers exploring why some communities of color are lagging have identified impediments to access and hesitancy rather than unwillingness as the primary culprits.

Whereas, as an institution of higher education our responsibilities to the community include dispelling myths through the promotion of science education and providing to the best of our ability access to testing and vaccinations (just as we do with flu inoculation).

Whereas, best practices dictate that access to face-to-face instruction and support interaction leads to greater retention and greater student success, a return to face-to-face instruction should be our primary focus. However, this can only be accomplished through herd immunity for safety reasons. Barring this we will be constrained to at most 60% capacity.

Resolved, we have a vaccine mandate for anyone returning to campus as an employee or student. **Or**

Resolved, we have a tracking system in place for levels of vaccination so that we can open up as soon as we hit CDC informed thresholds.

Resolved, we pressure Alameda County Public Health to make both campuses a vaccination site by August so we can provide access to students who need it, and aggressively embark on countering misinformation campaigns.

Resolved, we maintain a robust online presence of classes, tutoring, and counseling so that our students too vulnerable to attend a “socially distanced” classroom or those opting out of vaccinations still have access.

***The following are articles I will be referencing in our discussion:***

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-biggest-barriers-to-covid-vaccination-for-black-and-latinx-people1/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/getting-clearer-picture-black-americans-factors-overcame-their-vaccine-hesitancy-n1263787>

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11861810/no-the-tuskegee-study-is-not-the-top-reason-some-black-americans-question-the-covid-19-vaccine>

<https://edsource.org/2021/many-colleges-require-vaccines-immediately-but-csu-and-uc-stick-with-plan-to-wait-on-fda/654215>

Sincerely,

Sarah