May 24, 2021

Mary Gauvain, Chair, Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

RE: (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

Dear Mary,

Executive Council discussed the Proposed Presidential Policy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program on May 24, 2021. I write to provide the Riverside Division’s response to the subject proposal and have attached memos from a number of standing committees who opined on the subject proposal.

During Executive Council’s discussion, local committee memo responses were amplified and reiterated. It was discussed that at, at least one other Division, processes related to mandating proof of vaccination has been overwhelming to staff. If UCR is going to go that route, more resources will be necessary. It was also mentioned that the proposed policy does not conflict with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) and is similar to other policies at other campus across the U.S.

Sincerely yours,

Jason Stajich
Professor of Bioinformatics and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
    Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of UCR Academic Senate Office
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

May 7, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
   Riverside Division

From: Stefano Vidussi, Chair
      Committee on Educational Policy

RE: Proposed Presidential Policy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

The Committee on Educational Policy reviewed the proposed Presidential Policy for the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program at their May 7, 2021 meeting.

The Committee noted concern that the proposed policy’s guidelines to verify vaccination status (III.A.2) suffer from the lack of availability of a uniform, verifiable documentation. Moreover, in III.A.3a there is no provision of how unvaccinated faculty, students, and staff who do not fall in the exception category will be prevented from access on campus: in fact III.A.3b can be construed as permitting access on campus under heightened (if vague) precaution measures, as it does not specify that the paragraph applies solely to exempted individuals. The Committee recommends that the policy be updated to address these concerns.

Additionally, the Committee noted concern that the requirements for non-medical exceptions were vague: in (II. Exception) the eligibility to exception is described in terms of highly subjective terms, without mention of which authority has the jurisdiction of determining what constitutes “beliefs, observances, or practices, which an individual sincerely holds”. The Committee recommends that the policy on non-medical exceptions be revised to be more restrictive. It was noted that in the current policy for vaccinations non-medical exceptions are not considered and several members requested that the proposed policy similarly limit exceptions to medically justified exemptions.
May 17, 2021

TO: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Lucille Chia, Chair  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

The CHASS Executive Committee approves the provisions presented in the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program. The EC is concerned that the specific details—policies and regulations to be determined by and for each campus—be issued in a timely fashion so that the community for each campus will have sufficient time to make the necessary work plans.
18 May 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
   Riverside Division

From: Theodore Garland, Jr., Chair, Executive Committee
      College of Natural and Agricultural Science

Re: Systemwide Review: Proposed Policy on SARS-CoV-2 Vacc Prog

After some discussion regarding the Fall 2021 densities and the impact full vaccination could have on this, the CNAS Executive Committee voted to support the plan for everyone to get vaccinated. However, in their response to the Senate, the Committee wishes to note that once full vaccination process is complete, there should be communication of a logical step to potentially revise the plan for the fall and consider fully re-opening sooner.

Cheers,

[Signature]
To: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Xuan Liu, Chair  
Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Re: Proposed Policy: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

The Committee of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion reviewed the Proposal and is supportive of this policy for SARS-CoV-2 vaccination program.

In addition, the committee recognizes that non-exempt employees and hourly academic appointees have been given paid time to obtain each vaccine dose, and we would like to ensure that our vaccination clinic on campus receives enough supply for everybody who needs to access UCR facilities and programs in person.
May 19, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
    Riverside Division

From: Hai Che, Chair
       Committee on Research


The committee reviewed the proposed policy SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination and felt that policy should explicitly include or exclude visitors and/or human subjects research participants.
COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE

May 18, 2021

To: Jason Stajich
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Patricia Morton, Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare


The Committee on Faculty Welfare consider by email the proposed SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program, a proposed policy that would require students, faculty, academic appointees, and staff who are accessing campus facilities at any UC location beginning this fall to be immunized against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Overall the CFW supports the proposed policy but with some caveats. The committee believes that requiring the vaccine should not be the sole measure used to prevent COVID outbreaks. While vaccination efforts are robust, we must prepare for the possibility that a significant number of our students and colleagues will remain unvaccinated in the near term, including fall quarter. Continued community health practices, such as wearing masks and rigorous cleaning regimes, will be needed for the foreseeable future as we move back to in-person instruction. We are also concerned about the efficacy of the currently-available vaccines should more virulent variants of SARS-CoV-2 become prevalent.

We have concerns about issues the proposed policy does not address. It will be extremely difficult to monitor who has and who has not been vaccinated on campus and in our classrooms. The policy uses ambiguous language regarding the consequences of not abiding by its mandate. We need to know how UC anticipates documenting vaccination. Will persons who fail to participate, either not being vaccinated or granted an exception, be barred from in-person access to campus? Will faculty and staff be informed of exceptions for students (similar to accommodation letters) to inform them of potential risks? A similar question applies to visitors, building maintenance, other staff, and contractors.

How will persons granted an exception be given access to instruction, advising, and other activities? Will faculty be expected to deliver dual-mode (in person and online) instruction if a student with a medical exemption to the policy cannot attend in person? If there are unvaccinated students in the classroom, will faculty have the choice to offer their course remotely? These and other crucial issues must be specified in the broader context of this policy.
GRADUATE COUNCIL

May 6, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Amanda Lucia, Chair
Graduate Council


Graduate Council reviewed the proposed policy: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program. The Council is supportive of the policy but thought the language was vague with respect to the timing of the full dose of the vaccine relative to the start of the fall quarter. The way the policy is written, it could be interpreted that one shot is enough to return to campus. If this is not the intention, it should be explicitly stated that the second dose of the vaccine must be obtained two weeks prior to returning to campus. It also was not clear if people would need to wait a full two weeks after the final dose to achieve full effectiveness before returning to campus, or if they would be able to return to campus immediately after their second dose. It was unclear whether people will be required to provide proof of vaccination, or just state that they have been vaccinated.
May 13th, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

From: Declan McCole, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

Subject: SOM FEC Response to the Draft SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

Dear Jason,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee is in broad agreement with the draft policy on the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program. However, we would like clarification as to why a religious exemption is available for declination of inoculation with an approved COVID-19 vaccine. This conflicts with – and represents a singular exception from - established UC policy on vaccinations which expressly states that while medical exemptions are permitted (following appropriate review of a submitted medical exemption request form), “requests for exemptions for non-medical reasons will be denied and are not eligible for appeal”. This is a direct quote from the University of California Immunization Exemption Policy document (https://www.ucop.edu/uc-health/_files/UC%20Immunization%20Exemption%20Policy.pdf).

Yours sincerely,

Declan F. McCole, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
School of Medicine
May 14, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Sheldon Tan, Chair
Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

RE: SR. Proposed Policy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions reviewed the Proposal Policy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program and are supportive of the proposal. The committee acknowledges that this policy is critical for many faculty to be willing to return to predominantly in person instruction in the Fall. The committee feels it will facilitate a return to normal instruction which could conceivably positively impact the willingness of students to attend and even apply in the future.

The committee requests clarification on the following:

1) Vaccine Declination: The proposal states: “Individuals who are not vaccinated and do not have an approved Exception or Medical Exemption documented on a Declination Form will not be cleared to access University Facilities or Programs in person.” Does this mean that remote learning will be provided for these individuals? Are there alternatives like deferred enrollment for freshman and transfer students if they fall under this category? There will be declinations (not just among students, but among some faculty as well) and this issue will arise.

2) In multiple spots, including the Policy Summary, the document refers to a person receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as a requirement for, in effect, full participation in university activities. Perhaps this should be strengthened to require the person to be "fully vaccinated." This term is clearly defined by the CDC, and basically means two weeks following the full sequence of doses (1 or 2) of the vaccine that is administered.

3) The verbiage on disabilities is confusing and perhaps misleading. On page 10, it seems to refer to a specific disability---being immunocompromised. Surely this is a medical exemption, though the disability service offices might play a supportive role should that exemption be challenged. But on page 3, the wording is so terse that it seems to imply that any disability is automatically a medical exemption. Perhaps the "; or disability" on page 3 should just be dropped but keep the verbiage on page 10.
May 20, 2021

TO: Jason Stajich, Chair
    Academic Senate

FROM: Philip Brisk, Chair
      BCOE Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Policy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

Dear Jason,

The BCOE Executive Committee reviewed the Systemwide proposed policy on the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program. The Committee supports the proposal.
TO:  Jason Stajich, Chair  
      Riverside Division

FR:   Richard M. Carpiano, Chair  
      Executive Committee, School of Public Policy


Date:  May 20, 2021

The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy reviewed the “Proposed Policy: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program.” No concerns were noted.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Carpiano, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Professor of Public Policy and Sociology