

July 29, 2021
President's Update

LCC Faculty Colleagues,

I'm writing with a very brief update regarding new developments pertaining to the vaccine requirement and Fall term.

Collectively, we continue to navigate changing guidelines and circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic not only globally and locally but also at LCC.

As you are likely aware, the LCC Board of Education voted unanimously last week to require vaccines for college employees and for students attending LCC in-person beginning in Fall term. (See the press release: <https://www.lanecc.edu/newsroom/2021-07-22/lcc-announces-covid-19-vaccine-requirement-fall-term>)

However, at Tuesday's Reopening Team meeting, administrators indicated that the vaccine requirement would take effect during Fall term with a deadline in week 1 or 2 of the term for students to either present an exemption or documentation of the first vaccination shot. This would lead to an effective date much later in Fall term due to the 3-4 week waiting period between shots for the two-shot vaccines, plus the two-week period thereafter, which is necessary for full vaccination status. Team members also learned that the Team would no longer meet, and a committee composed of administrators would make determinations for all campus COVID protocols going forward.

Given the disconnect between the Board of Education's vote and the information provided to the Reopening Team, LCCEA, your faculty union, and LCCEF, the classified union, issued a joint letter (attached) to the College president and Board of Education on Tuesday and met together with President Hamilton yesterday, advocating for continued inclusion of stakeholder groups in determining COVID protocols as well as better communication and actions in alignment with the Board vote on required vaccines. The President has since made a commitment to ensure that employee groups continue to participate in plans for campus COVID protocols as well as to ensure that the vaccine requirement will indeed be implemented by the beginning of Fall term consistent with the Board vote.

LCCEA and LCCEF are committed to continuing to work together in solidarity as we navigate the transition to a fully vaccinated campus.

In addition, your LCCEA Bargaining Team will keep faculty apprised of the status of bargaining over safety and working conditions for Fall and beyond, which we anticipate will address many issues and questions raised in recent all-faculty emails, including masks, distancing, among others. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or other Bargaining Team members.

Finally, I would like to express deep appreciation for faculty members Kelly Collins and Nancy Wood on the Bargaining Team and Christina Howard on the Reopening Advisory Team as well as Frankie Cocanour and the team from LCCEF, in particular Fiora Starchild and Buck Potter, all of whom have been instrumental in the joint advocacy, which has contributed to the Board's adoption of a vaccine requirement -- the first comprehensive requirement at an Oregon community college. Continued advocacy and engagement of faculty will be critical as the requirement is implemented and campus COVID protocols are determined.

We are stronger together as a faculty unit, and even more so as we stand together in solidarity with our classified colleagues.

My best,
Adrienne