

**Faculty Senate Resolution Number \_\_\_\_\_**

To: Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, Southern Connecticut State University  
From: Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:

RESOLUTION Regarding \_\_\_\_\_

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This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: \_\_\_\_\_

- This Resolution is presented for APPROVAL  
 This Resolution is presented for INFORMATION

In accordance with the CSU-AAUP Contract (Article 5.10), "When the Senate makes a written recommendation to the President, the President shall acknowledge and respond to the recommendation in writing within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the Senate's recommendation. "

After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form and return it to the President of the Faculty Senate.

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Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, Faculty Senate      Date

cc: Robert S. Prezant, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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**ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

**Resolution for Approval:**

- Resolution APPROVED  
 Resolution DISAPPROVED (Provide comments below or attach statement)

**Resolution for Information:**

- Resolution NOTED (applies to Informational Resolutions only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

**Resolution on Vaccine Mandate and Related Anti-Covid Measures for Spring 2022**

**Whereas**, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

**Whereas**, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty;

**Whereas**, Covid-19 remains a serious health threat, due not only to the Delta variant now dominant, but also to the potential threat of the new Omicron variant;

**Whereas**, The CSCU President in his November 1<sup>st</sup> announcement stressed that, “Our overall goals are to

1. decrease the number of students who have not attested to their vaccination status,
2. decrease the number of non-medical exemptions wherever possible, and
3. continue to impose consequences for non-compliance.”;

**Whereas**, The CSCU President in his November 1<sup>st</sup> announcement also stated that “This continuous improvement will take place at the campus level allowing flexibility to address concerns based on local conditions,” with a mandate to local leadership to:

1. “Review and work to reduce the non-medical exemptions provided to students” and
2. “Continue to impose consequences for non-compliance for those students that have not attested to their vaccination status or have been granted exemptions but have not consistently reported for weekly testing”

**Whereas**, At least one vaccine (Pfizer) has now received final authorization (Biologic License), and vaccination and booster guidance has been extended by the CDC to include college-aged students;

**Whereas**, Exemptions for non-medical reasons place in danger not only the individual concerned but others with whom they are in contact, and are inconsistent with the moral requirement of acting so as not to harm others;

**Whereas**, Whereas, Legal challenges to vaccine mandates have been rejected in the paradigm case of Indiana University -- which the Supreme Court declined to review, leaving it in full force – and, closer to home, in cases involving challenges to mandates at University of Massachusetts (Lowell) and University of Connecticut, both of which were rejected by district courts; and

**Whereas**, The goal of controlling any outbreak/uptick/surge of a communicable disease requires knowledge and information, their application through policies to protect all students, faculty and staff, and the means to implement and enforce those policies; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved** that

- A. *Educational Campaign*: SCSU continue the educational campaign, drawing on the audio-video and other communication skills of our students, including but not limited to those in public health, nursing, biology, communication, journalism and other fields, to produce social media products explaining functioning of the virus and the vaccines, and the need for vaccination. This campaign could be supplemented by written material on the ethical and legal justifications for mandated vaccination.
- B. *Information and Data*: There be a meeting of the SCSU President (or designee), the Senate, AAUP, and SUOAF Presidents to review data in the following areas to better inform policy and implementation/enforcement measures:
  1. Rate of vaccination (full series/two vaccinations spaced as recommended) of students living on campus and commuter students; including statistics on booster vaccinations when available.
  2. Rate of vaccination (full series/two vaccinations spaced as recommended) of students,

faculty, and staff of SCSU.

3. Number of medical exemptions granted, summed across students, faculty, and staff.
4. Number of nonmedical exemptions granted, summed across students, faculty, and staff.
5. Current and ongoing schedule of random screening of residential and commuter students, faculty, and staff and results of those screenings.
6. Current and ongoing overall positivity rate of the SCSU community, to the extent that this is known from required and non-required self-reporting of individuals tested.

C. *Medical exemptions*: Medical exemptions must be accompanied by a statement of the medical reason and an attestation by a licensed medical provider.

D. *Non-Medical Exemptions*: Consistent with the stated objective of reducing non-medical exemptions, the ideal would be eliminating the category completely; short of this SCSU shall require of all applicants for non-medical exemptions a statement of their reason for requesting the exemption, to be reviewed by a committee or designated individuals, including faculty input, to determine whether an application is to be accepted or not, based on the following criteria:

1. Personal objections (e.g., “fear of needles,” “distrust of government”), or reasons based on misinformation (e.g., “aborted cells were used in producing the vaccine,” “the vaccines are too new and untested”) are to be uniformly rejected;
2. Religious objections are to be allowed for members of religions that preclude medical treatment in their basic tenets (e.g., Christian Scientists), accompanied by an attestation of doctrinal basis by a minister of that religion;
3. Religious exemptions may be allowed for other individuals but must (i) be accompanied by a statement of strongly held religious belief, (ii) an attestation by a registered minister of that religion, and (iii) be subject to a meeting with the student to discuss this issue and its implications. Such exemptions shall not be automatic.

E. *Enforcement for non-compliance*: Consistent with the objective of imposing consequences for non-compliance:

1. Warnings for first time violators (failure to report vaccination status, failure to be regularly tested in the case of those with exemptions, failure to follow masking or other policies) shall be followed by increasing sanctions, including barring from on campus events and seeking on campus services, health hold on registration, up to and including suspension (but not expulsion) for repeat violators.
2. Students barred from campus until they return to compliance cannot demand online material or online meetings not already provided by the courses for which they are registered.

F. *Booster Vaccination*: Given the importance of boosters to increase immunity and CDC guidance for all adults, SCSU shall

1. Recommend boosters for those more than 6 months past their mRNA vaccine, or 2 months past their Johnson & Johnson vaccine;
2. Mandate boosters as required once their efficacy against new variants has been established and appropriate guidance from federal, state and system levels has been issued.

G. *Other issues*: To fully protect students, faculty and staff, SCSU shall for Spring 2022:

1. Increase the number of on-campus vaccinations, with additional stations at each clinic as needed to optimize wait times, including using nursing students to assist in the process;
2. Increase the number of portable ventilation systems in classrooms and accelerate the upgrade of building ventilation systems, where needed;
3. Continue the mask mandate for classrooms, and other enclosed rooms, common areas as designated, and for transit through building corridors, stairways and elevators;
4. Continue contact tracing, and inform (without specifying individuals) faculty, staff, and students of infections among those they have encountered in their classes, offices, or campus events.