

Continuing Protections for Students, Faculty and Staff Under Pandemic Conditions

Whereas, COVID-19 continues to spread as new variants evolve, leading to periodic increased infection and hospitalization rates for the foreseeable future, returning to campus continues to be potentially risky for students, faculty, staff, their families and the community.

Whereas, although vaccination has greatly reduced hospitalizations and deaths, vaccination does not fully protect from breakthrough cases, protection wanes with time, children under 5 cannot yet be vaccinated, and other people cannot be vaccinated due to health conditions.

Whereas, infection does not prevent reinfection and even mild cases of COVID-19 can lead to long-term health consequences and disability, affecting up to 20% of patients, including heart, lung, liver, kidney and brain damage.

Whereas, masking remains the best method of reducing transmission in indoor environments, protecting everyone in the space from potential infections that could be transmitted to unvaccinated and/or vulnerable family and community members.

Whereas, we as a college have a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and well-being of students, faculty, staff, administrators and the community.

Whereas, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District established a vaccination requirement via Resolution 21-024.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Grossmont College strongly urges that the vaccination and indoor masking requirements for faculty, staff and students working on campus continue, but offer options for unvaccinated employees and students to work online only or test regularly.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Grossmont College strongly urges that free vaccination and testing continue to be available on campus.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Grossmont College strongly urges that all faculty (classroom, non-classroom, part-time, and full-time) and staff with health conditions, young children, or family members who are at-risk, immunocompromised, or who medically cannot get vaccinated, should not be required or expected to return to campus during an ongoing pandemic, and should be allowed to work remotely.

Aye: 26

No: 32

Abstain: 3

Resolution did not pass.

May 16, 2022