

Whereas, on August 23, 2021, the F.D.A. granted full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine;

Whereas, the F.D.A. approval has led to new vaccination requirements at hospitals, colleges, universities, the federal government, and private companies across the United States;

Whereas, on September 8, 2021, the Commonwealth of Kentucky reached its highest COVID-19 positivity rate (14.17%) since the start of the pandemic;

Whereas, the delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is much more contagious and is affecting more young people in our communities than the original strain;

Whereas, hospital intensive care units across the Commonwealth are at or near capacity;

Whereas, as of September 13, 2021, 1,023 [other colleges and universities in the United States](#) already require vaccinations, including other flagship state universities, such as the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Ohio State University, and Indiana University; and four institutions in Kentucky, Transylvania University, Bellarmine University, Berea College, and Centre College;

Whereas, public health and immunology experts at UK believe that population immunity against the delta variant can only be achieved when we reach 90-95% vaccinated, meaning that our current 81.5% vaccination rate (as of 9/10/21) still presents conditions that jeopardize the health, welfare, and lives of people on campus and in our local community, particularly children under 12 and others at increased risk;

Whereas, some students, faculty, and staff on our campus are already subject to a vaccine mandate;

Whereas, as of September 13, 2021, over 2300 members of the UK community have signed an [open letter](#) in support of a vaccine mandate;

And whereas, the University of Kentucky, the flagship university of the Commonwealth, has a long-standing legacy of playing a leadership role in Kentucky on issues of health, education, agriculture, law and many other fields that impact the citizens of the commonwealth, on this particular issue of health policy, the University of Kentucky has a responsibility to lead.;

Be it resolved, that, the University Senate:

Calls on President Capilouto to issue an immediate vaccination mandate for eligible University of Kentucky students, faculty, and staff;

And that such a mandate be implemented in a fair and equitable manner with input from the University Senate, Staff Senate, and other impacted stakeholders.