



Board of Regents Special Meeting

August 2021

August 13, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Videoconference & Boardroom, McNamara Alumni Center

BOR - AUG 13, 2021 - Special Meeting

1. Resolution Related to Change to University Immunization Requirement - Review/Action

Docket Item Summary - 3

Resolution - 6

2. Non-Audit Consulting Engagement Related to PEAK - Review/Action

Docket Item Summary - 7



BOARD OF REGENTS DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

Board of Regents

August 13, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution Related to Change to University Immunization Requirement

Review

Review + Action

Action

Discussion

PRESENTERS: President Joan T.A. Gabel

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS

The purpose of this item is to review and act on a Resolution Related to Change to University Immunization Requirement. The Board will also discuss the University’s plan, currently in consultation, regarding COVID-19 vaccinations for all faculty and staff.

The University continues to engage the expertise and counsel of its campus communities; rely on state and federal guidance; analyze public health data, science, and accompanying trends; and adjust as new information and circumstances dictate. In addition, the University has consulted with students, faculty, and staff governance leaders and will continue to do so to ensure that their feedback informs implementation of the [Get the Vax 2.0 plan](#), including a virtual systemwide town hall for all students, faculty and staff scheduled for August 18, 2021.

Resolution Related to Change to University Immunization Requirement

Pending Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of the COVID-19 vaccine, the University will require the COVID-19 vaccination of all students systemwide. This requirement addresses concerns from the University community over the recent Delta variant spike and the increase in positive COVID-19 cases across the state and country, and allows for the best chance to have normal campus activity this fall with uninterrupted in-person, on-campus instruction.

Highlights of this requirement are as follows:

- Formal FDA approval of a COVID-19 vaccine is anticipated in the coming weeks. At that time, the University will add the COVID-19 vaccine to immunizations already required for students, while allowing religious or health exemptions as appropriate.
- The vaccine plan for students will go into effect after the FDA licenses the first COVID-19 vaccine - that is, approves an FDA Biologics License Application (BLA).
- The University intends to use, as appropriate, its current system for implementing and tracking this new COVID-19 vaccination requirement. This system has been successfully used for the University’s existing immunization requirements, and it complies with privacy laws and practices.

Additional details regarding the timing and grace period of the vaccine requirement for students, how to report vaccinations, and any consequences for non-compliance are in progress. Until then, the University continues to strongly encourage all students to be vaccinated.

Vaccinations for Faculty and Staff

The University also is engaged in shared governance consultation regarding a plan to have all faculty and staff systemwide attest that:

- They are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and they will get tested if exposed to someone who has COVID-19 or if they experience symptoms; or
- If they have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccination, they are testing via a means and frequency to be determined, they are testing if experiencing symptoms, and they are testing if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19; and
- If they receive a positive test result for COVID-19, they will follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, including isolating and participating in contact tracing efforts, and in planning their return to work.

Additional details regarding the timing and grace period of the vaccine requirement for faculty and staff, how to report vaccinations, and any consequences for non-compliance are in progress.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ongoing consultation with University public health experts and others supports the transition to the proposed vaccination requirement plan, and several factors weigh in on this shift:

- The anticipated impending approval of a COVID-19 vaccine changes the public health landscape and increases the anticipated acceptance of a new plan/mandate.
- The Delta variant, including its estimated heightened transmission rates, even among the fully vaccinated, has increased the urgency of broad-based vaccination. On July 27, the CDC classified 63 percent of U.S. counties and 16 percent of Minnesota counties as having substantial or high transmission levels. As of August 7, 87 percent of U.S. counties and 81 percent of Minnesota counties are listed by CDC in those categories. Specific to the University, on July 27 all six of the counties in which campuses are located were classified by the CDC as experiencing “low” or “moderate” levels of community transmission. As of August 7, four of those counties were identified by the CDC as having “substantial” transmission levels, and two – Hennepin and Olmsted – were listed as having “high” transmission levels.
- The University must consider not only its campus communities, but also the surrounding communities where transmission rates continue to increase. The counties where students live, work, and otherwise frequent have vaccination rates in the 40-65 percent range. In addition, University employees live and work in many counties across Minnesota with a wide range of vaccination rates. The Delta variant’s higher transmissibility rate requires higher vaccination levels to blunt transmission and decrease the possibility that new variants of concern may emerge.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

The President recommends approval of the Resolution Related to Change to University Immunization Requirement.



REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION RELATED TO

Change to University Immunization Requirement

WHEREAS, the anticipated approval of a COVID-19 vaccine by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) changes the public health landscape and increases the anticipated acceptance of a vaccine mandate; and

WHEREAS, transmission rates continue to increase in Minnesota counties where University students live, work, and frequent; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant's higher transmissibility rate requires higher vaccination levels to blunt transmission and decrease the possibility that new variants of concern may emerge; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing list of public colleges and universities across the country that are requiring vaccines, including, but not limited to, Michigan State University, Purdue University, the University of Florida, and many of the nation's leading private colleges, including many in Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon FDA approval, the Board of Regents endorses the addition of the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of immunizations required for all students systemwide, allowing religious or health exemptions as appropriate.



BOARD OF REGENTS DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

Board of Regents

August 13, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Non-Audit Consulting Engagement Related to PEAK

Review

Review + Action

Action

Discussion

This is a report required by Board policy.

PRESENTERS: Michael Volna, Associate Vice President & Assistant Chief Financial Officer

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS

The purpose of this item is review and action on a non-audit consulting engagement with an external audit firm valued over \$100,000.

This engagement with KPMG LLP is for advisory services to assist the University's Office of Human Resources in developing a project road map for HR transformation, as part of the PEAK (Positioned for Excellence, Alignment, and Knowledge) Initiative. KPMG will assist with planning work, business case development, and other preparatory work for the PEAK Initiative. This proposed engagement will be coordinated with Huron Consulting and the Office of Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations. The related engagement letter was reviewed by the Controller's Office and the Associate Vice President for Finance prior to its finalization, consistent with Board policy.

KPMG LLP does not currently provide audit services to the University. This engagement will not impair the independence of KPMG LLP and would not prevent them from providing audit services to the University in the future. The engagement will run through October 2021 and fees for this engagement are not to exceed \$325,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Engagements with external audit firms with a value greater than \$100,000 require approval by the Audit & Compliance Committee, in conformance with Board of Regents Policy: *Board Operations and Agenda Guidelines*, Section IV, Subd. 4, (g).

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

The President recommends approval of the engagement with KPMG LLP.