



Board of Visitors
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PRESIDENTIAL POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. 315

To: Faculty, Staff, Students, and the Public

Authorized: By the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors

Date: June 8, 2021

Subject: **Delegation of Authority to the President of the University
Pertaining to Public Health Emergencies**

On June 8, 2021, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors passed a resolution to delegate the following authority to the President of the university. This delegation remains in effect until rescinded or superseded by subsequent action of the Board of Visitors.

The Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby delegates authority to the President of the university to require vaccination for COVID-19 as a condition of in-person attendance in classes and activities and to decide, at the President's sole and complete discretion, based upon institutional needs and health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community whether or not to require vaccination for COVID-19 as a condition of in-person attendance, as well as to take any further actions necessary to implement any such requirement; and

Further, the Board of Visitors delegates to the President of the university the authority to decide, at the President's sole and complete discretion, to implement any health and safety measures necessary based upon institutional needs and the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community during the current and any future public health state of emergency, provided that such measures are not contrary to executive orders of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia or legislative mandates.

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The complete resolution of the Board of Visitors is replicated below:

**RESOLUTION DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE PRESIDENT
TO IMPLEMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES
DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES**

WHEREAS, in the winter of 2020, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, swiftly swept the globe, prompting Governor Northam to declare a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia, which was followed by a declaration of emergency for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University by President Sands, and both declarations remain in effect at this time along with requirements for physical distancing, facial coverings, and restrictions on the size of gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the virus has had a profound impact on everyday life and every facet of the university, and has required institutions of higher education to implement a variety of administrative and operational measures to prioritize public health and safety while carrying out their educational mission; and,

WHEREAS, guidance from federal and state officials continues to evolve as more information becomes available about the COVID-19 virus and how to mitigate its spread, and the Attorney General of Virginia has recently opined that Virginia's state institutions of higher education may condition in-person attendance in classes and activities upon receipt of an approved COVID-19 vaccination during the time of the pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby delegates authority to the President of the university to require vaccination for COVID-19 as a condition of in-person attendance in classes and activities and to decide, at the President's sole and complete discretion, based upon institutional needs and health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community whether or not to require vaccination for COVID-19 as a condition of in-person attendance, as well as to take any further actions necessary to implement any such requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors delegates to the President of the university the authority to decide, at the President's sole and complete discretion, to implement any health and safety measures necessary based upon institutional needs and the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community during the current and any future public health state of emergency, provided that such measures are not contrary to executive orders of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia or legislative mandates.

June 8, 2021