

RE: DIAAC to consider vaccine mandates

July 26, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the SPPC,

A new issue has come to the fore that may warrant consideration by the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Advisory Committee. The health unit has expressed approval for a vaccine mandate on those seeking higher education. This opens the door for the city to consider its own mandates in response to a call for safety. The unintended consequence of mandating a medical treatment, and subsequently denying services to those who do not prove compliance, is that some will claim to it be an act of coercion and potentially oppression. For that reason, I believe it is worth consulting DIAAC, for input on how to ensure that any contemplated actions are balanced.

I see at least three groups would likely be affected:

Those concerned about long-term safety: Despite its wide acceptance, the mRNA technology has a very short clinical history. Those who prefer to wait for the conclusion of longer-term studies will likely view vaccine mandates as a potential risk to personal safety.

A control group: An effective long-term evaluation of vaccine efficacy and side effects requires a substantial control group of people who have not been vaccinated. These individuals should not be harshly discriminated against.

Those seeking privacy: There will be people concerned about having to share their medical history and others concerned about the precedent it would set.

For the reasons above, I ask that the following motion be supported:

That the issue of vaccine mandates and the communication from Councillor van Holst BE REFERRED to the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Advisory Committee for consideration and comment.

Michael van Holst
Councillor – Ward 1