Good afternoon. I am writing to request your participation in a brief, voluntary survey of MC employees regarding several Return to Campus processes. It is an anonymous survey and responses are not tied to any personally identifying information. The urgency of the upcoming semester has accelerated the need for feedback, so responses will be collected for only one week—today through Friday, August 20, at noon. Aggregate results will be shared at Fall Opening Meeting on Monday, August 23. The more responses we receive, the more information we have about effectively moving into the next stage of our Return to Campus. I appreciate you taking part and urging your colleagues to do so as well.

Among a few urgent questions on this “pulse survey” are attitudes about vaccination against the coronavirus. As you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies vaccination as the most important step in communities building herd immunity and returning to some semblance of normal. There are questions about whether employees have themselves been vaccinated, whether they plan to be, and how they feel about an institutional mandate for all employees. Please be aware that all questions around employee vaccination should be understood as including exemptions for those with documented medical or religious needs.

The rise of the delta variant in our area—according to local metrics—has accelerated discussions of whether a vaccine requirement may be advisable. In addition to protecting more of our community from infection, a mandate might allow the College to better respond to the needs of our students and our community. Fulfilling our mission—as the College has done so heroically this past year—must remain a priority even under these trying circumstances.

Your responses, along with input from governance councils, employee union leaders, and conversations with MC’s Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, and our Director of Public Health and Environmental Safety will inform decision making about Return to Campuses. Thank you in advance.