AGENDA ITEM ____

Review of Board Policy No. 2300 (Communicable Disease Immunization) and Repeal of Board Policy No. 2301 (Mandatory Vaccination Policy – Students)

RECOMMENDED DIRECTIVE

The Board of Regents hereby approves Board Policy No. 2300 (Communicable Disease Immunization), as amended, which replaces the existing Board Policy No. 2300 (Mandatory Vaccination Policy – Employees) and Board Policy No. 2301 (Mandatory Vaccination Policy – Students), and directs that BP No. 2301 be repealed, for the purpose of consolidating the immunization requirements for students and employees into a single policy that is clear, consistent, and aligned with FSM public health directives and applicable law.

DISCUSSION

Policies and procedures are *living frameworks* that balance stability with adaptability. While their core principles provide continuity, their specifics must evolve to reflect the institution's growth and changing needs. As such, the Office of the President (OTP) continues to collaborate and/or work with relevant offices and standing committees at the College to review policies and procedures relating to general institution (Chapter 2).

This review follows the Board of Regents 2022–2027 Master Planning Calendar, which schedules the review of Board policies by chapter at the Board's regular meetings. Following the calendar keeps the review orderly and predictable, ensures that each policy is brought to the Board on a regular cycle (at least every three years), and gives the Board and the committees time to review proposed amendments before action.

On November 2, 2026, the Executive Committee (EC) endorsed these policies after they had been reviewed and endorsed by the relevant standing committees (Student Success Committee, and Human Resources Committee) in accordance with the College's BP No. 1600 (Governance Structure) and BP No. 2200 (Participatory Governance Policy).

The policies are now presented to the Board of Regents for consideration and approval.

POLICY	REMARKS
BP No. 2300 (Communicable Disease Immunization)	○ Combines the employee and student policies (BP No. 2300-for Employees, and BP No. 2301-for Students) into one policy that applies to all students and employees. ○ Shifts the trigger from the College's own finding of an epidemic threat to a formal directive or regulation of the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs or the corresponding state health authority. ○ Requires the President to announce any requirement in writing, naming the disease, the groups affected, the effective date, the source of the directive, and the exemption procedure.

	○ Provides medical, religious, and regulatory exemptions, with a written decision by the President or designee within ten working days and confidential handling of supporting information. ○ Provides an interactive process for reasonable accommodation, including remote participation, masking, testing, or other measures recommended by health authorities. ○ Replaces automatic leave without pay, layoff, and registration denial with written notice, a reasonable period to comply, and available alternatives. Registration is denied only if no reasonable alternative exists. ○ Adds non-retaliation protection, a three-year review cycle, and authority for the President to issue implementing procedures. ○ States that the *College does not currently require COVID-19 vaccination and that the policy supersedes the 2021 mandatory vaccination policies.*
BP No. 2301 (Mandatory Vaccination Policy – Students)	○ Recommended for repeal. Its coverage of students is absorbed into the amended BP No. 2300, which applies to both students and employees. ○ Student-specific provisions (alternative instruction, accommodation, and limits on denying registration) are carried into Section 5(b) of the amended BP No. 2300.

ACTION TAKEN

___ Approved as presented

___ Approved with modifications

___ Disapproved

___ Deferred to a later meeting

VOTE

____ Aye ____ Nay ____ Abstain

Date _____