

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: University Senate Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of the Issue – why the issue is being considered:

The authorized absence policy was first developed in 1971, with amendments in 1979 and 2009. Over the years students have misperceived the policy as mandating that if a student's absence is authorized, the instructor is obligated to provide the student the same experiences that were missed during the absence (e.g, labs). Moreover, the policy to date has not made clear the role of the Associate Deans of Students.

The proposed revision clarifies the instructor's obligations in cases of authorized absences, making them less stringent. It brings together the authorized absence policy and the attendance policy that instructors are to provide students. It clarifies the joint effort between Deans in Colleges and Associate Deans of Students in determining whether absences are authorized and in assisting students.

It adds a new section, defining the responsibilities of students in cases of authorized absences and advising them that even if their absences are authorized, they may be at a disadvantage: they may miss foundational material in the course and, especially in cases of extended absences, may not be able to complete a course successfully.

Points discussed by Committee:

They are listed above.

Pros of the Recommendation:

Clarifies the responsibilities of instructors and students in cases of authorized absences

Specifies that instructors are not obligated to reconstruct experiences that students may have missed during their absences

Emphasizes the collaborative relationship between College Deans and Associate Deans of Students in assisting students and instructors in cases of authorized absences

Cons of the Recommendation

None known

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Academic Policies Committee by a vote of 7 for and 0 against on October 6, 2009

Recommends to the University Senate that the proposed revision of the Class Attendance and Authorized Absence Policy be accepted as presented in the attached document

Implementation date: Fall 2010