REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

The Authorized Absence Policy (FASRP, Part III, Article 6, Section B, p. 133) or https://www.uwec.edu/files/4586/FASRP.pdf is used to guide and illustrate the absences that fall under one of the six categories recognized as authorized absences by the university. The Dean of student’s office receives emails from students who are scheduled for jury duty or who have been summoned to appear in court as a witness. The current “Authorized Absences” lists six authorized absences, not including the issue stated above. The Dean of Students office request to add a 7th authorized absence category for jury duty/summoned orders.

Change:
Existing Language:

**Authorized Absences** (US 11/09)
Absences that fall under one of the following categories are considered authorized: (1) participation in an approved field trip listed in the catalogue as a requirement for a course in which the student is enrolled; or (2) participation in an authorized extra-curricular activity on the regularly approved calendar of university events [such absences are reported by the dean to each department at least 48 hours in advance of the trip or event]; or (3) Labor Day employment; or (4) active military service; or (5) accommodation of students’ religious beliefs [see Accommodation of Students’ Religious Beliefs Policy below]; or (6) illness, injury, or emergency of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class. A student should communicate directly with the instructor when an absence falls under one of the approved six categories. Instructors have discretion regarding requests for absences that do not fall under one of the approved six categories. (US 4/13)

Proposed Language:

**Authorized Absences** (US 11/09)
Absences that fall under one of the following categories are considered authorized: (1) participation in an approved field trip listed in the catalogue as a requirement for a course in which the student is enrolled; or (2) participation in an authorized extra-curricular activity on the regularly approved calendar of university events [such absences are reported by the dean to each department at least 48 hours in advance of the trip or event]; or (3) Labor Day employment; or (4) active military service; or (5) accommodation of students’ religious beliefs [see Accommodation of Students’ Religious Beliefs Policy below]; or (6) illness, injury, or emergency of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class; **or (7) being summoned to court or requested to appear in court or having to serve on jury duty.** A student should communicate directly with the instructor when an absence falls under one of the approved **seven** categories. Instructors have discretion regarding requests for absences that do not fall under one of the approved **seven** categories. (US 4/13)
Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Does the added category and language encompass most legal situations that students may encounter without being exhaustive.

Pros of Recommendation:

Proposed change provides clarity for students and addresses the ambiguity that may arise with some instructor’s discretion regarding requests for absences that do not fall under one of the approved categories.

Cons of Recommendation:

none

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the above-mentioned change to the Authorized Absence Policy (FASRP, Part III, Article 6, Section B, p. 133) to add a 7th authorized absence category for jury duty/summoned orders.
The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of  8 for to 0 against on September 28, 2021 (Date)

Recommends that:
Change to the Authorized Absence Policy (FASRP, Part III, Article 6, Section B, p. 133) to add a 7th authorized absence category for jury duty/summoned orders, starting 2021-2022 AY:

Change:
Existing Language:

Authorized Absences (US 11/09)
Absences that fall under one of the following categories are considered authorized: (1) participation in an approved field trip listed in the catalogue as a requirement for a course in which the student is enrolled; or (2) participation in an authorized extra-curricular activity on the regularly approved calendar of university events [such absences are reported by the dean to each department at least 48 hours in advance of the trip or event]; or (3) Labor Day employment; or (4) active military service; or (5) accommodation of students’ religious beliefs [see Accommodation of Students’ Religious Beliefs Policy below]; or (6) illness, injury, or emergency of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class. A student should communicate directly with the instructor when an absence falls under one of the approved six categories. Instructors have discretion regarding requests for absences that do not fall under one of the approved six categories. (US 4/13)

Proposed Language:

Authorized Absences (US 11/09)
Absences that fall under one of the following categories are considered authorized: (1) participation in an approved field trip listed in the catalogue as a requirement for a course in which the student is enrolled; or (2) participation in an authorized extra-curricular activity on the regularly approved calendar of university events [such absences are reported by the dean to each department at least 48 hours in advance of the trip or event]; or (3) Labor Day employment; or (4) active military service; or (5) accommodation of students’ religious beliefs [see Accommodation of Students’ Religious Beliefs Policy below]; or (6) illness, injury, or emergency of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class; or (7) being summoned to court or requested to appear in court or having to serve on jury duty. A student should communicate directly with the instructor when an absence falls under one of the approved seven categories. Instructors have discretion regarding requests for absences that do not fall under one of the approved seven categories. (US 4/13, 10/21)

Implementation Date: 21/22 catalog

Signed: _______________________________________
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office