Present: Members: Scott Clark, Rahul Gomes, Abby Hemmerich, Mary Hoffman, Marquell Johnson, Carol Koroghlanian, Bill Miller, Kati Morley, Dalete Mota, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Evan Weiher
Guests: Silviana Amethyst, Margaret Cassidy, Abbey Fischer, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning, Jill Markgraf, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Teresa Sanislo, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from November 2, 2021
   - Motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (10-0-0).

2. Proposal from the Caregiving Task Force to add 8th Authorized Absence category to FASRP
   - What are other universities doing?
     - Language from Oshkosh was shared, isn’t as explicit. We want to be seen as a leader and not a follower.
   - Motion was made to approve the Proposal from the Caregiving Task Force to add 8th Authorized Absence category to FASRP. Motion was seconded. Debate:
     - Would like to remove the word necessary add an before unavoidable:
       * (8) caregiving, parenting, and pregnancy obligations of such an unavoidable, or critical nature as to prevent the student from being able to attend class
     - Feel the language is already covered with emergency in existing authorized absence No. 6
     - Support the original motion, but would be comfortable removing necessary. Favor having caregiving separate and not embedded within the other excused absences.
     - Oshkosh calls out all emergency situations and prefer that, covers unexpected, would like to add it as an amendment absence No. 6.
     - Examples aren’t included in the proposal and people will forget what the policy is meant to include (parenting and pregnancy obligations).
     - Have discussed underrepresented populations, these students need the policy to back them up; need to meet EDI mission; APC should step up and pass something substantial.
     - Majority in Nursing feel addition wouldn’t change what faculty are currently doing
       * Might not change how faculty interact, but including the language allows student who didn’t know they could ask, positive change for students
       * Addition of category will change the processes available to the students. If it passes, it will still require consensus of understanding by student and professor; students and faculty may interpret it differently
     - Worried about Senate not supporting it, need more specifics like U of Wyoming (separate bullet on pregnancy and parenting under Title IX), appreciate clause stating DOS makes decision vs. faculty
Needs to be a conversation between faculty and student, can’t include every scenario as something will be missed, should serve as an invitation to approach a faculty member.

Feel self-care is covered under emergency.

Motion was made to amend the Proposal from the Caregiving Task Force to read: (8) caregiving, parenting, and pregnancy obligations of such an unavoidable, or critical nature as to prevent the student from being able to attend class. Motion to amend was seconded. Motion passed as amended. (9-1-0)

Motion was made to amend the current amended motion to the Proposal from the Caregiving Task Force to read: (6) illness, injury, or emergency, pertaining to the student or because of their role as a caregiver, of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class. Motion to amend was seconded.

Feel caregiving is diminished/minimized if added to an existed authorized absence.

Concern that it must be an “illness, injury, or emergency.” What is included? What if a babysitter cancels? Diminishes role of caregiver. Pregnancy isn’t an illness.

Like conciseness of adding it to No. 6, but feel is should be on its own, students aren’t aware of Title IX, should be explicit.

Could add additional words, but don’t want a policy that is easy to abuse: (6) illness, injury, emergency, unavoidable obligation, or extenuating circumstance pertaining to the student or because of their role as a caregiver, of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class.

Motion passed as amended. (9-1-0)

Motion was made to amend the current amended motion to the Proposal from the Caregiving Task Force to read: (6) illness, injury, emergency, unavoidable obligation, or extenuating circumstance pertaining to the student or because of their role as a caregiver, of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class. Motion was seconded and failed as amended. (5-5-0)

Current motion under consideration: (8) caregiving, parenting, and pregnancy obligations of such an unavoidable, or critical nature as to prevent the student from being able to attend class.

Agenda item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting