**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Resolution No. 1*

Author(s): Senator Cassidy Cook, Senator Kianna Sarvestani

Sponsor(s): Senator Olivia Chambers, Senator Katelyn Collison

**A Resolution to Support the Re-drafting of University Absence Policy**

Whereas, As a University with over 27,000 students the reality that students will have to miss class throughout the semester is very pertinent.

Whereas, The current class absence policy is open to interpretation and enforcement by professors and has created an stark differences in the ways attendance matters are handled.

Whereas, The University of Arkansas current class absence policy reads: There may be times, however, when illness, family crisis, or university-sponsored activities make full attendance or participation impossible. In these situations students are responsible for making timely arrangements with the instructor to make up work missed. Such arrangements should be made in writing and prior to the absence when possible. Examples of absences that should be considered excusable include those resulting from the following: 1) illness of the student, 2) serious illness or death of a member of the student’s immediate family or other family crisis, 3) University-sponsored activities for which the student’s attendance is required by virtue of scholarship or leadership/participation responsibilities, 4) religious observances (see Students’ Religious Observances policy below), 5) jury duty or subpoena for court appearance, and 6) military duty. The instructor has the right to require that the student provide appropriate documentation for any absence for which the student wishes to be excused.

Whereas, ASG Senator Cassidy Cook and ASG Senator Kianna Sarvestani conducted a survey exploring class absences with questions developed around the current policy.

Whereas, The conclusions drawn from the survey responses was that: 64% of students have 4 or more courses that require a doctor's note to miss class, less than 4% have zero classes that require a doctor's note, 77.3% of the students know someone or have personally not been to pat walker because they will not receive a doctors note, and 81.4% of students have said they have been to class including with the flu, strep, etc because they did not have a doctors note and their professor required one for their absence to be excused

Whereas, The current University of Arkansas policy has created an ethical and inclusion issue as it is only allowing those with the financial means to go get excused from class.

Whereas, The current University of Arkansas policy is creating situations in which breaching of Confidential Rights of students and medical professionals at Pat Walker has occurred (FERPA/HIPAA). Examples include professors asking for proof and students sending prescription bottles, pictures of them in doctor’s office, insurance information, and professors have asked for the date/doctor who saw the student.

Whereas, The current University of Arkansas policy has put students in a volatile mental state for students already struggling with mental health issues as they do not feel comfortable expressing their diagnosis or want to indicate to professor that is why they missed class.

Whereas, The current University of Arkansas policy is creating an unbalanced system regarding appointments/triage as students refuse to follow triage instruction as they are wanting a doctor’s note which can only be obtained via appointment.

Whereas, ASG Senator Cassidy Cook and ASG Senator Kianna Sarvestani presented to Faculty Senate regarding the need to facilitate change within the current policy.

Whereas, Faculty Senate agreed that policy change was needed and asked ASG Senator Cassidy Cook and ASG Senator Kianna Sarvestani to develop a new policy.

Be it therefore resolved: That the Associated Student Government Senate recognizes the need for a new policy to support student needs.

Be it further resolved: ASG Senate supports ASG Senator Cassidy Cook and ASG Senator Kianna Sarvestani in their efforts to develop a new policy by researching other University policies and partnership with Pat Walker. In collaboration as well with ASG Cabinet and ASG President JP Gairhan.

Be it further resolved: ASG Senator Cassidy Cook and ASG Senator Kianna Sarvestani give monthly progress reports to the senate body and send the policy out to ASG members for feedback.

Be it further resolved: A copy of this legislation be sent to the Chair of Faculty Senate, Kathleen Lehman, Director of Pat Walker Mary Alice Serafini, and Dean Harvard Rom.

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Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye 44 Nay 0 Abstentions

Legislation Status: Passed yes Failed­ Other

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Colman Betler, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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JP Gairhan, ASG President Date