

Motion on Proposed Handbook Change on Absences

Whereas, pursuant to Section II.E. of the Faculty Handbook, the Faculty Handbook Committee is given the responsibility to propose changes to the Handbook and present them to the university community for comment, and

Whereas on Friday, February 21, 2014 the Faculty Handbook Committee presented its recommended considered for the 2013-2014 year to the university community for comment, and

Whereas one of these proposals included the following suggested change to III.A.20. on faculty absences:

Existing Handbook language (proposed to be deleted):

It is a faculty member's responsibility to fulfill his or her assigned responsibilities, including classes, as scheduled. If a faculty member will be absent from a class or scheduled activity for any reason, the faculty member is responsible for seeing that the class receives appropriate instruction, and for consulting with the AUH as early as possible concerning the absence and the arrangements for the class.

Proposed new Handbook language (to replace the paragraph above):

Approved travel, conflicting university responsibilities, educational leave, medical situations, and other legitimate reasons may on occasion cause a faculty member to be absent from his or her assigned responsibilities. If a faculty member will be absent from a class or scheduled activity for any reason, the faculty member must notify the AUH as early as possible concerning any planned absence. The AUH will notify the faculty member whether the planned absence is approved. Failure to notify the AUH may result in disciplinary action against the faculty member.

A faculty member assigned to teach classes is responsible for identifying appropriate individuals with to provide instruction to the class, for notifying the AUH of the identified individuals and receiving approval from the AUH for those individuals to substitute as instructor for the class during the absence. In the case of an emergency or an unplanned absence, the faculty member must contact the AUH or have a representative contact the AUH to report the situation, if possible. In the case of an emergency absence, the AUH will determine whether to cancel the class or make arrangements for someone to cover the class.

Whereas the Faculty Senate considers this proposed change to be a new obligation, and not a mere restatement of uniform and consistent university practice, and one that infringes on faculty autonomy in the classroom,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate is opposed to the proposed change to Section III.A.20 of the Faculty Handbook.