

Transmission of Proposal for Senate - Cover Page

Qualtrics Survey Software <noreply-qualtrics@uky.edu>

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To: Brown, Roger M. <rogerbrown@uky.edu>

Cover Page

Proposal to Conduct Broad Review of Excused/Unexcused Absence Policies

1. **Purpose for submitting:** *Submitting for approval*
2. **Type of proposal:** *Campuswide policies (including Senate Rules)*
3. **Specific action being requested:** *Change*
4. **Proposer:** *Roger Brown*
5. **Affiliation of proposer:**
6. **Proposal submitted on behalf of another unit or organization**

6.a. If "Yes," name of the submitting unit/organization:

7. Rationale for proposal:

From the draft minutes of the SREC's meeting on August 24, 2023 (link below), the SREC members unanimously approved: "The SREC believes that it is timely the Senate Council task an appropriate ad hoc committee for a broad review of Senate Rules on excused/unexcused absences, and that the SREC Chair should be consulted about an SREC member being appointed to the ad hoc committee." Source:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ydKPfKaXxbNnSleulEoHpXIL6w5inaKA/view?usp=sharing> The SREC notes that the 'excused absence' policies in the Senate Rules were formed back during the time of the class models of the 1970s, whereas class models now, 50 years later, are very different (e.g., more remote learning options, increased health sensitivities, etc.). There is also the issue that as greater accommodation for student absences become expected, the commensurate increase in faculty resources is not being made, which is not tenable. The SREC noted an incorrect assertion by DRC (allegedly) that the Senate's "20% rule" does not apply to students identified by DRC as warranting a course accommodation. The SREC also noted that in 2018 the administration decided that student falsification of records supporting an excused absence would be handled as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The SREC also noted likely inequities regarding documentation of excused absences for health/medical reasons given that access to health care providers varies significantly across student segments (e.g., students with or without family connections to health providers).

8. Does the proposal include a change to the Senate Rules?

Not applicable

8.a. If "Yes," what section of the Senate Rules?

8.b. If "Yes," what is the requested effective date?

9. If asking for feedback, how will the feedback be used?