

**Minutes  
SREC Meeting  
Dec. 2, 2019**

**3. SREC Interpretation – Excused/Unexcused absences; Withdrawal; I Grade (Collett)**

The SREC discussed the meaning of SR 5.2.4.2, in regards to what options are available to students, and what is discretion afforded to Instructors of Record, in relation to withdrawal, I grades, or other possible outcome. Much of the discussion involved what the words “penalty” and “may” mean in the provisions:

**5.2.4.2 Excused Absences**

A student shall not be penalized for an excused absence.

**5.2.4.2.3.1 Excused Absences**

If a student has excused absences for the dates and times associated with more than one-fifth of the required interactions for a course, the student shall have the right to receive a "W", or the Instructor of Record may award an “I” for the course if the student declines to receive a “W”

The SREC agreed

1. That excused and unexcused absences cannot be counted together toward the ‘one-fifth rule’ in the Instructor of Record’s syllabus course policy regarding how absences will be handled.
2. In the case of greater than 20% excused absences
  - a. the student may opt for a “W”  
  
or
  - b. if the student does not opt for a “W”, then either
    - i. The Instructor of Record shall give the student an opportunity to make up the work ... if feasible during the semester in which the absence occurred. (SR 5.2.5.2.2)  
  
or
    - ii. The student may request of the Instructor of Record a grade of “I”. Pursuant to SR 5.1.2.2, the I grade can be conferred only after the Instructor of Record ascertains “the student can complete the work within the allowable period of time for removal of an I grade and that a passing grade will result from completion of the work.”  
  
or
    - iii. The student opts to receive the grade otherwise earned for the course when the missed graded work is not made up.

SREC disagreed as to what are the possible other outcomes are available, if none of the above is the outcome, and who is authorized to decide other outcomes. Examples of issues the SREC was concerned about but could not resolve were:

What does 'penalty' mean in SR 5.2.4.2? For example, if an outcome caused the student's paid tuition for the course to be comprised, does that constitute disallowed "penalty"? Or does disallowed "penalty" only refer to action that the Instructor of Record or University Senate has authority to control?

Even if the tuition was not compromised, does it constitute a disallowed "penalty" for the Instructor of Record to determine that the only reasonable means to remove the "I" grade is to take the course over again?

The SREC decided it could not resolve these concerns without getting into substantive new educational policy, and that is beyond SREC jurisdiction. The SREC therefore forwards this matter to the Senate Council for tasking to the appropriate committee attention.