

Brothers, Sheila C.

From: Letellier, Laura
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Bird-Pollan, Jennifer
Cc: Cramer, Aaron M.; Kalika, Douglass S.; Johnson, Michael T.; Brothers, Sheila C.; Jones, Davy; Lovely, Jennifer L.; Dotson, Anthony; Worick, Cara E.; Burke, William F.; Davis, Stephen; Liao, Yuan; Phillips, Lynn R.; Grise, Jane B.; Moore, Kelsey; Carter, Richard E.; Taylor, Travis N.; Walmsley, Lee A.; Thomas, Jonathan N.; Martin, Joe C.; Kraemer, Philipp J.
Subject: Proposed Rules and Syllabus Update from the "Teaching Student Veterans" FLC to Prepare for National Guard or Military Reserve Activation
Attachments: Interim Rules and Syllabus Update For Guard and Reserves Activation.docx

Good Afternoon Dr. Bird-Pollan:

Our "Teaching Student Veterans" Faculty Learning Community (FLC) has been working with Dr. Jones and his team on a comprehensive update to Senate rules to accommodate both long and short term military absences. This is in the context of our charter to examine and develop best practices for bringing students who are military veterans together with traditional students in the classroom for the benefit of all.

We understand that a call-up of the Kentucky National Guard is a possibility and want to be proactive by providing you an excerpt from the short term absences section of our rules change package. Our hope is that this will promote a consistent university-wide response by faculty should this activation occur.

I will attach this excerpt and also suggested language for a corresponding syllabus update. Please reach out to me or to Dr. Grise or Colonel Dotson, who are the primary authors of the broader rules change, if more information is needed. Both are members of our FLC.

For latest information on the Kentucky National Guard's plans, I recommend reaching out to Colonel Dotson, Director of the Veterans Resource Center, who has contacts within the Guard and is following development. His email is Anthony.Dotson@uky.edu.

Jennifer, please accept my deepest thanks for all that you and the Senate are doing to guide us through these events which our university has not experienced in 100 years.

Thank you!

--

Laura

Laura Marie Letellier, PE - University of Kentucky
First-Year Engineering Program
Electrical & Computer Engineering Department
email: laura.letellier@uky.edu
phone: +1 312 301 5505

The following are interim updates to the 2019 Mater Rules of the University Senate and Standard Syllabus Language to accommodate short term activation of National Guard and Military Reserve units to accommodate the current public health challenge:

To be temporarily added to the end of section 5.2.4.2.3.1 Excused Absences:

If a student is required to be absent for one-fifth or less of the required course interactions (e.g., class meetings) due to military duties, the following procedure shall apply:

1. Once a student is aware of a call to duty, the student shall provide a copy of the military orders to the Director of the Veterans Resource Center. The student shall also provide the Director with a list of his/her courses and instructors.
2. The Director will verify the orders with the appropriate military authority, and on behalf of the military student, notify each Instructor of Record via Department Letterhead as to the known extent of the absence.
3. The Instructor of Record shall not penalize the student's absence in any way and shall provide accommodations and timeframes so that the student can make up missed assignments, quizzes, and tests in a mutually agreed upon manner.

Proposed addition to all university syllabi to implement this update:

If you are a student who is also a member of the National Guard or Military Reserve and are called to duty for one-fifth or less of this semester:

1. Once you become aware of the call to duty, please provide a copy of your military orders to the Director of the Veterans Resource Center. Please also provide the Director with a list of your current courses and instructors.
2. The Director will verify the orders with the appropriate military authority and on your behalf, will notify your instructors as to the known extent of the absence.
3. I will not penalize the absence in any way and will work with you to create reasonable accommodations for making up missed assignments, quizzes, and tests.