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S12RS SGR No. 35 (More Attendance)

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STUDENT SENATE

S12RS

SGR No. 35

BY: SENATORS PACE, WESTBROOK, ECKER, FRIAS, ANTHONY, CAMPBELL, WOODS,
MISKATOVIC, AND SCWARTZENBURG

A RESOLUTION

**TO URGE AND REQUEST THAT PARTICIPATION BE USED AS PROOF OF CLASS
ATTENDANCE AND THAT REVISIONS TO PS-22 BE MADE TO CLARIFY APPROPRIATE
DOCUMENTATION**

- PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE TO CLASS AND ITS CRITICAL INFLUENCE TO RETENTION RATES AND;
- PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT CURRICULUM GRADES SHOULD BE BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENT AND HIS OR HER KNOWLEDGE OF COURSE MATERIAL AND;
- PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, ALLOWING AN INSTRUCTOR TO ARBITRARILY TAKE ATTENDANCE, A METHOD THAT DOES NOT ENGAGE STUDENTS IN A CONNECTION TO FURTHER UNDERSTAND THE COURSE MATERIAL, LEADS TO GRADES THAT CORRESPOND ONLY TO BEING IN CLASS AND;
- PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE ADVOCATES THAT ATTENDANCE BE OMITTED AND IN ITS PLACE A FORM OF PARTICIPATION BE USED THAT BETTER ENGAGES STUDENTS IN THE COURSE MATERIAL AND;
- PARAGRAPH 5:** WHEREAS, PARTICIPATION, BUT NOT ATTENDANCE, WILL BE USED AT THE TEACHER'S DISCRETION BUT WILL NOT BE MANDATORY, THUS PROVIDING A SOLID ACADEMIC BENEFIT TO STUDENTS WHILE ALSO GIVING STUDENTS MORE INCENTIVE TO ATTEND CLASS AND;
- PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, P.S. 44 STATES "WHILE IT IS APPROPRIATE (AND INDEED INEVITABLE) THAT THE INSTRUCTOR SHOULD EXERCISE SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENT IN DETERMINING GRADES, PARTICULARLY IN "BORDERLINE" CASES, THE JUDGMENT SHOULD BE BASED SOLELY ON ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS. GRADES MUST NOT BE UTILIZED AS COERCIVE OR PUNITIVE MEASURES REFLECTIVE OF A STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR, ATTITUDE, PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY, OR OTHER PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS EXCEPT AS THOSE QUALITIES RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENT'S LEVEL OF MASTERY OF THE COURSE MATERIAL" THUS THE SPIRIT OF PS-44 WOULD BE DAMAGED BY THE USE OF ATTENDANCE AS A FACTOR IN GRADING, MEANING THAT IT MUST BE PARTICIPATION THAT DOES SUCH AND;

PARAGRAPH 7: WHEREAS, CLICKERS SHOULD BE USED FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES AND NOT AS A TOOL TO HAVE STUDENTS “CLICK IN” TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PRESENCE AND;

PARAGRAPH 8: WHEREAS, WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS WITH P.S. 22 AND WHAT APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION CONSIST OF AND;

PARAGRAPH 9: WHEREAS, THE CURRENT POLICY CONCERNING ABSENCES STATES IN PS-22 THAT:

Valid reasons for absences include:

1. Illness
2. Serious family emergency
3. Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips
4. Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty
5. Military obligations
6. Serious weather conditions
7. Religious observances. See the interfaith calendar website (www.interfaithcalendar.org) for an updated calendar of holidays and primary holy days of the various religions. Faculty members are expected to be sensitive to the different religious traditions represented in the LSU community, and to assist students in making up examinations or other assigned work that may be missed due to absences required by religious observances.
8. Participation in varsity athletic competitions or university musical events

The student is responsible for providing reasonable advance notification and appropriate documentation of the reason for the absence. Should the instructor and student disagree over the validity of a reason for an absence, the student has the right to appeal the instructor's decision according to the general appeal procedure in PS-48. , AND;

PARAGRAPH 10: WHEREAS, THE POLICY IN ITS CURRENT LANGUAGE DOES NOT ADEQUATELY DEFINE SPECIFIC OR APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES AND;

PARAGRAPH 11: WHEREAS, THE DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION DIFFERS BETWEEN FACULTY MEMBERS DUE TO THE AMBIGUITY OF PS-22, AND;

PARAGRAPH 12: WHEREAS, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE WHAT CERTAIN FACULTY MEMBERS DEEM AS APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION DUE TO A LACK OF DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION, AND;

PARAGRAPH 13: WHEREAS, THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER DOES NOT ISSUE MEDICAL EXCUSES OR OTHER APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION THAT IS CONSISTENTLY ACCEPTED BY ALL FACULTY, AND;

PARAGRAPH 14: WHEREAS, MANY STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE AND RELY SOLELY ON THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER FOR MEDICAL CARE, AND;

PARAGRAPH 15: WHEREAS, IT IS INAPPROPRIATE AND UNFAIR TO CHANGE THE ATTENDANCE POLICY TO ALLOW TEACHERS TO INCLUDE PARTICIPATION OR ATTENDANCE IN ANY FORM AMONG COURSE GRADING CRITERIA WITHOUT GIVING ALL STUDENTS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION, AND;

PARAGRAPH 16: WHEREAS, DUE TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED REASONS, A SPECIFIC POLICY NEEDS TO BE AGREED UPON AND RECOGNIZED BY ALL ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY IN ORDER ADDRESS THE INHERENT DEFICIENCIES IN BOTH PS-44 AND PS-22.

PARAGRAPH 17: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE URGE AND REQUEST THAT PARTICIPATION BE USED AS PROOF OF CLASS ATTENDANCE AND THAT REVISIONS TO PS-22 BE MADE TO CLARIFY APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION AND;

PARAGRAPH 18: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A SUITABLE COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO PROVOST JACK HAMILTON, THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, DR. KEVIN COPE, PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY SENATE AND K.C. WHITE, DEAN OF STUDENTS.

PARAGRAPH 19: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (1/2) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.