

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FORTY-FOURTH SENATE
TWENTY SIXTH SESSION
April 15th, 2015**

Resolution #4425

Endorsement of Student Excused Absence Policy Proposal

SPONSORED BY: Samuel Laffey, Senator Liberal Arts; Michelle Sogge, Senator Health and Human Sciences; Spencer Nolan, Senator Liberal Arts; Conner Jackson, Assistant Director of Health; Alyssa Reinhart, Senator Agricultural Sciences; Andrei Gurau, Elections Manager; Lauren Wester, Deputy Chief of Staff

WRITTEN BY: Mackenzie Whitesell, ASCSU Director of Health

ENDORSED BY: ASCSU Senate Committee of External Affairs; Jason Sydoriak, President-Elect

WHEREAS: Colorado State University strives to provide high quality education to its student body; and,

WHEREAS: Students can face extenuating life circumstances, including (but not limited to) mental health conditions, other chronic health conditions, sexual assault, and family illness or deaths, that can lead to class absences as a result of verifiable and valid reasons; and,

WHEREAS: Faculty and instructors at Colorado State University seek to support student learning and well-being; and,

WHEREAS: Some faculty and instructors currently do not display any leniency when working with students who must be absent from class due to extenuating circumstances; and,

WHEREAS: Such lack of leniency can lead to unnecessary barriers to student success, which contradicts the stated mission of the Colorado State University Division of Enrollment and Access, which includes an intent to “[...] retain, and graduate the students sought by the University;” and,

WHEREAS: A system currently exists, but is not well-known by many students, faculty, and instructors, through the offices of both Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) and Student Case Management that allows for verification of extenuating circumstances related to absences from class; and,

WHEREAS: Many faculty and instructors do not currently know how to handle situations where a student must repeatedly be absent from class;

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED: That the 44th Senate of the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU) endorses the proposal for a Student Excused Absence Policy that clarifies the system for verification of excused absences, recommends a statement for course syllabi that directs students to RDS and Student Case Management if necessary, and encourages faculty and instructors to work with students who must be absent from class due to verifiable extenuating circumstances without grade penalization; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 44th Senate of ASCSU acknowledges that the Student Excused Absence Policy proposal was written by Lauren Wester, ASCSU Deputy Chief of Staff, and Mackenzie Whitesell, ASCSU Director of Health, with input from Dr. Jody Donovan, Dean of Students, Jennifer Van Norman, Director of Student Case Management, and Rosemary Kreston, Director of Resources for Disabled Students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 44th Senate of ASCSU supports continued consideration of the Student Excused Absence Policy proposal by the faculty and administration of Colorado State University; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 44th Senate of ASCSU supports continued input on the proposal by faculty, instructors, administrators, and students at Colorado State University to ensure that a variety of affected parties are able to contribute to the policy proposal; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this legislation be sent to Dr. Rick Miranda, Provost and Executive Vice President; Dr. Kathleen Pickering, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs; Dr. Jody Donovan, Dean of Students; Dr. Stephanie Clemons, Chair of Committee of Teaching and Learning; Dr. Mary Stromberger, Chair of Faculty Council; Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; Jennifer Van Norman, Director of Student Case Management; Rosemary Kreston, Director of Resources for Disabled Students; Samantha Guinn, ASCSU President; Lance LiPuma, ASCSU Vice President; and Rioux Jordan, ASCSU Chief Justice.

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PASSAGE

April 15th, 2015
DATE

VICE PRESIDENT LANCE LI PUMA

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