



Senate Resolution #15

2012-2013

ASUN Support of the Addition of A Bereavement Policy to the UNL Attendance Policy

1 **WHEREAS, as many as 40% of students will experience a loss during their four or more**
2 **years in college; and**

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4 **WHEREAS, a student may need to miss class to attend a funeral or grieve this loss;**
5 **and**

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7 **WHEREAS, the UNL attendance policy does not address the issue of bereavement;**
8 **and**

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10 **WHEREAS, UNL faculty and staff enjoy a bereavement and leave policy which**
11 **entitles them to receive paid leave for a varying number of days, depending on the relation**
12 **of the deceased to the faculty or staff; and**

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14 **WHEREAS, it is inconsistent that faculty and staff are protected in the event of a**
15 **loss while students are not;**

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17 **WHEREAS, ASUN should strive to protect the academic interests of students**
18 **should they suffer a loss during college; and**

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20 **WHEREAS, ASUN recognizes that not all absences can be accommodated but**
21 **believes that instructors should seek to the greatest extent possible to accommodate these**
22 **absences and should attempt to provide the opportunity to earn similar or equivalent credit**
23 **for missed assignments or assessments; and**

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25 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASUN supports the amendment of the UNL**
26 **Attendance Policy regarding students grieving from a tragic loss of a loved one or close**
27 **friends.**

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29 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUN supports the amendment of**
30 **the UNL Attendance Policy regarding students by adding the following statement:**

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32 Students grieving from a personal tragedy, such as the loss of a loved one or close friend, may
33 need to be excused from a class, lab, studio meeting or required class activity to attend a funeral
34 or manage grief. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Office of the Vice Chancellor for
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38 Student Affairs to request that a notice of his or her leave be sent to instructors. This notice is for
39 the instructor's information only and does not relieve the student of contacting instructors as
40 soon as possible. Upon his/her return, the student will provide documentation of the loss to each
41 instructor and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Instructors should seek to
42 the greatest extent possible, consistent with course requirements, to make reasonable
43 accommodations for the grieving student, and should attempt to provide the opportunity to earn
44 similar or equivalent credit for missed assignments or assessments. However, students should
45 recognize that not every course can accommodate absences and neither the absence (nor the
46 notification of the absence) relieves them from meeting the course requirements. If the student is
47 not satisfied by the execution of this policy by a faculty member, he/she is encouraged to contact
48 the department head/chair, and if necessary the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Upon
49 his/her return, the student will also be encouraged to visit the Counseling and Psychological
50 Services office in the UNL Health Center to discuss the best methods of returning to normality
51 and integrating once again into the classroom and college life.

SUBMITTED BY Academic Committee Date 11-26-12

EXECUTIVE ACTION Date

COMMITTEE ACTION Date

FLOOR ACTION Adopted by Unanimous Vote Date 11-28-12

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE (s) President E. Kamler Date 11/30/12
