



Student Government Resolution 118.003

A Resolution Amending the Standing Rules of Student Government: Attendance and Absences

Sponsored by Adam Barker, Rules Revision Ad Hoc Committee Chair; Keaton Leppanen, President of the Student Association; Deanna Schmidt, Vice President of the Student Association; Maura Shimmens, Secretary; Jared Kolok, Environmental Affairs Chair; Adam Paris, Student Affairs Chair; Sam Tillman, Voting Senator

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- Student Government is bound by the rules detailed in its governing documents; and
- There exists unclear and inconsistent language in the Student Government Standing Rules regarding attendance and absences of members; and
- There is a lack of clarity in the “Assignment of Absences” section as to what positions are required to attend what meetings; and
- There is a lack of a discernible excuse policy in the “Excuse Policy” section;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

- By approving this resolution, the Student Senate is approving the proposed changes¹ to the Standing Rules; and
- The proposed changes will take effect immediately upon the approval of the Student Senate.²

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Vice President of Student Affairs, Janna Stoskopf; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed by Unanimous Consent

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Keaton Leppanen'.

President of the Student Association, Keaton Leppanen

¹ See appendix.

² The clause numbers of the following changes will be updated before they are implemented.

APPENDIX

ARTICLE I: THE STUDENT SENATE

Section 4: The Speaker of the Student Senate

Clause 13

The Speaker shall serve one hour per week in the Student Government office. This office hour may not run concurrently with office hours for any other organization.

Section 6: Duties of Associate Members

Clause 2

Associate members shall serve on at least one standing, ad hoc, or University committee, attend all committee meetings for the committee(s) of which they are members, and fulfill all committee obligations as deemed necessary by the ~~President~~ or chair of the committee(s) on which they serve, and fulfill any other individual obligations deemed necessary by the President.

ARTICLE V: ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Section 1: Absence Policy

Clause 1

Each voting member of the Senate and member of the ~~executive committee~~ Executive Board will be allowed a maximum of one unexcused absence per semester and a maximum of five total absences, whether excused or not, per semester of office. Individual members may petition the Secretary to make exceptions to the policy, subject to a majority approval from the Executive Board, in the event of unforeseen or extraneous circumstances.

Clause 2

Associate members will be allowed a maximum of one unexcused absence per semester and a maximum of three total absences, whether excused or not, per semester of office. Individual members may petition the Secretary to make exceptions to the policy, subject to a majority approval from the Executive Board, in the event of unforeseen or extraneous circumstances.

Clause 3

Each member filling any position not listed above shall be designated an individual absence policy by the President to coincide with their attendance requirements, which shall also be created by the President.

Section 2: ~~Assignment of Absences~~ Attendance Requirements

Clause 1

Each failure to attend a Student Senate meeting shall count as one absence. This does not apply to any position where attendance of the Student Senate meetings is not required.

Voting members, members of the Executive Board, Standing Committee Chairs, and any other Executive Staff members or associate members so instructed by the President shall attend all full body meetings. Failure to attend a full body meeting shall count as one absence.

Clause 2

~~Each failure to attend a committee meeting, including those of the Executive Committee, shall count as one absence. This does not apply to any position where attendance of committee meetings is not required.~~

Members of the Executive Board, Standing Committee Chairs, and any other Executive Committee members so instructed by the President shall be required to attend all Executive Committee meetings. Failure to attend an Executive Committee meeting shall count as one absence.

Clause 3

Members who are part of any primary committee, subcommittee, secondary committee, or ad hoc committee shall attend all of the meetings of their committee. Failure to attend a committee meeting shall count as one absence.

Clause 3

~~Each failure to work an office hour shall count as one absence. This does not apply to members not required to work an office hour.~~

Voting members, members of the Executive Board, Standing Committee Chairs, and any other Executive Staff members or associate members so instructed by the President shall work one regularly scheduled office hour per week in the Student Senate office. Failure to work an office hour shall count as one absence.

Clause 4

~~Each failure to attend the Fall or Spring retreat shall count as two unexcused absences. This does not apply to any position where attendance is not required.~~

Voting members, members of the Executive Board, Standing Committee Chairs, and any other Executive Staff members or associate members so instructed by the President shall attend the Fall and Spring retreats. Failure to attend the retreat without an excused absence shall count as two unexcused absences.

Clause 5

~~Failure to attend any required Student Senate function while conducting other Student Senate business shall not count as an absence. When it is necessary, a replacement member should be found to attend the function, and the Secretary should be notified.~~

Senate events may be designated as 'required' by the President if so designated two weeks prior to the event. Failure by voting members, members of the Executive Board, Standing Committee Chairs, or any other Executive Staff members or associate members so instructed by the President to attend a required event shall count as one absence. The President may designate no more than four required events per semester.

Clause 6

~~Senate events may be designated as 'required' by the President if so designated two weeks prior to the event. Failure to attend these events shall count as an absence. The President may designate no more than four required events per semester.~~

Failure to attend any required Student Senate function while conducting other Student Senate business shall not count as an absence. When it is necessary, a replacement member should be found to attend the function, and the Secretary should be notified.

Clause 7

~~Entering more than ten minutes late, leaving early, or otherwise~~ Missing more than half of the general meeting shall count as an absence at the discretion of the Secretary.

Section 3: Excuse Policy

Clause 1

~~The Secretary shall enforce the excuse policy and determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused with regards to members of the Student Senate. The Executive Committee shall enforce the excuse policy and determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused with regards to the Secretary.~~

The Secretary shall enforce the excuse policy regarding excused and unexcused absences. Excused absences are defined as follows: family emergencies, medical appointments and emergencies, and other extenuating circumstances as determined by the Secretary. The Executive Committee shall enforce the excuse policy in regards to the Secretary.

Clause 2

Excuses shall be submitted to the Secretary at least six hours before the absence is to occur. The Secretary shall submit his or her personal excuse to the President.

Section 4: Removal Process

Clause 1

~~When a member of the Student Senate has exceeded the number of allowable absences, the Secretary shall contact the member privately, and then announce to the Student Senate at the earliest meeting possible that the said member should be removed from the Student Senate.~~

When a member of the Student Senate has reached one unexcused absence or the maximum number of total absences, the Secretary shall contact the member privately to notify the member in question about having reached the maximum number of unexcused or total absences.

Clause 2

When a member of the Student Senate has exceeded the number of allowable absences, the Secretary shall contact the member privately, and then announce to the Student Senate at the earliest meeting possible that the said member should be removed from the Student Senate.

Clause 2

Immediately following the Secretary's announcement, the individual in question may choose to appeal the decision to remove him or her from office to the Student Senate. If the decision is appealed, the Speaker shall automatically move the meeting into closed session. Once in closed session, the Secretary will be given a maximum of three minutes to explain why the member should be removed. Directly following this statement, the individual in question will be given a maximum of three minutes to explain why they should remain a member of the Student Senate.

Clause 3

Upon the Secretary's announcement, the individual in question is no longer a member of the Student Senate. If the individual in question was a voting member, their voting right shall be revoked along with membership. After delivering his or her statement, the individual in question must leave the chamber as they are no longer a member of the Student Senate.

Clause 4

Following the statements and the exit of the individual in question stipulated in the previous sections, the Student Senate shall allow discussion time from the floor and shall limit each member of the Student Senate to speaking once for a period of no longer than three minutes. At the conclusion of this discussion time, the Speaker will automatically call for a roll call vote to determine whether the member in question should be allowed to be reinstated as a member of the Student Senate. The appeal will be upheld and the individual in question will be allowed to remain in the Student Senate if a majority of those voting members present and voting, not counting abstentions, vote to sustain the appeal. If this majority is not achieved, the individual in question shall remain removed from the Student Senate and all of his or her offices shall be declared vacant.

Clause 5

~~If the member in question is pardoned for having more than one unexcused absence, the member's record shall automatically be reduced by one unexcused absence. If the member in question is pardoned for having more than five absences, the member's record shall automatically be reduced to having four absences by lowering the number of excused absences.~~

If the member in question is pardoned for violating the absence policy, the member shall then be allowed one excused absence but no unexcused absences. If the member exceeds this amount, they shall again go through the removal process.

Clause 6

In the event that the Secretary exceeds his or her allowed number of absences, the Vice President shall fulfill the duties of the Secretary as outlined above.

Clause 7

In the event that the Speaker exceeds his or her allowed number of absences, a randomly selected senior senator shall serve as Speaker Pro Tempore during the appeal, unless a Speaker Pro Tempore has already been designated.