

Resolution SS1213-34

November 7, 2012

DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
MAXWELL C. BROWN, DIRECTOR**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DULAC CLASS ABSENCE POLICY  
REGARDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Whereas, Students feel the current policy in *DuLac: A Guide to Student Life* regarding excused absences for classes and exams may not adequately address all legitimate situations for excuses;

Whereas, The students and administration of the University of Notre Dame wish for those students undergoing extenuating circumstances to experience proper support rather than encounter impersonal policies;

Whereas, *DuLac* currently does not adequately address the needs of students regarding excused absences and the University focuses more on impeding those students requesting absences for illegitimate reasons than assisting those students who actually require exceptions and support during extenuating circumstances;

Whereas, Students in the past have endured hardship due to the inflexibility of individual course instructors regarding absences not officially excused by the University, despite presentation of circumstances that have often constituted a highly reasonable excuse;

Whereas, Students have suffered great consequences due to their inability to attend job, internship and/or other related official post-graduate opportunity interviews due to being unexcused as an underclassmen;

Whereas, The student body recognizes that the current career-based and research-focused atmosphere at all levels of study in some instances requires members of all classes require an excused absence; and

Whereas, The student body recognizes that university policy currently does not fairly reflect the needs of all students and while great flexibility is exhibited with regards to students representing the university in an official way, there is often no flexibility regarding interviews; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the student body of the University of Notre Dame supports the ongoing revision of university policy in the most effective and efficient way;

*Resolved*, That the student body respectfully requests that the language of the *DuLac: A Guide to Student Life: Academic Policies and Resources: Class Absence Policy* be amended from:

‘Graduating seniors often must travel away from campus for interviews, whether for a fellowship opportunity, graduate school interviews, or post-graduate employment.’

To read, with the proposed language in bold, as the following:

‘**Undergraduate students may be required to** travel away from campus for interviews, whether for a fellowship opportunity, **internship**, graduate school interviews, or post-graduate employment.’

*Resolved*, That these amendments be deliberated by the relevant University administrative parties and a timeline for enactment be published to the student body by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.