

Resolution SS1213-35

November 7, 2012

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

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

Whereas, The student body recognizes that University policy currently does not fairly reflect the needs of all Students and while there is great flexibility exhibited with regards to students representing the University in an official way, there is often no flexibility during the loss of a loved-one; 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:

‘Notre Dame’s policy concerning absence from class, in all but three circumstances, accords to the student’s professor the discretion to accept the excuse and permit make-up work. The three exceptions to the policy include: personal illness, death in the immediate family and duties performed for the University.’

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

‘Notre Dame’s policy concerning absence from class, in all but three circumstances, accords to the student’s professor the discretion to accept the excuse and permit make-up work. The three

exceptions to the policy include: personal illness, death in the immediate family or **loved-one** and duties performed for the University.'

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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:

'In cases involving the death of an immediate family member (parent, grandparent, brother, sister), a letter from a family member or other appropriate verification is required.'

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

'In cases involving the death of an immediate family member (parent, grandparent, brother, sister) **or loved-one**, a letter from a family member or other appropriate verification is required.'

Resolved, That the definition of a 'loved-one' be at the discretion of the body which grants the excuse;

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 1st, 2013.