

## **RULE SEVEN: STUDENT SENATE ABSENCES**

- 7.01 Each Student Senator must attend all Senate meetings and meetings of all standing and ad hoc committees on which he/she serves.
- 7.02 **The Absence Policy shall be as follows:**
- A. Student Senators shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) absences from Senate meetings per semester (Fall, Spring, Summer "C") without being resigned from the Senate.
  - B. Each Senator that will be absent from the first meeting of the Senate session must give written notice to the Senate Secretary, prior to the first meeting of the new session. Should the newly-elected Senator receive an excuse for being absent from the first Senate meeting of the session, they have until the commencement of the following Senate meeting to get sworn in. Failure to be sworn in by the second Senate meeting of the session will result in the automatic resignation of the newly-elected Senate. Upon automatic resignation, the seat will be considered vacant and the appointment process will be followed in accordance to Title III of Student Government Statutes.
  - C. Each Senator must give written notice to the Pro Tempore and the LJR Chair, prior to the first meeting of each semester, if they are going to be absent from that first meeting.
    - 1. Failure to comply with said measure will result in the Senator being considered resigned from their seat as of the end of the first meeting of that semester.
    - 2. Said Senator will have until the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting to appeal the resignation in accordance to the procedures set forth in Senate Rule 7.
  - D. Student Senators shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) absences from committee meetings per semester without being resigned from said committees. Student Senators who have been removed from a standing committee in two (2) separate occasions shall be automatically resigned from the Senate. An exception exists for the Activity and Service Fee Committee, which shall adhere to its own attendance policy to be determined by a majority vote of committee members at the initial meeting.
  - E. Absences shall not be counted for the Senate Executive Committee meetings.
- 7.03 **An absence may be expunged by the Executive Committee as follows:**
- A. A Senator must submit an e-mailed or written petition requesting that an absence be excused, to the Senate President Pro Tempore and the LJR Committee Chair, 24 hours prior to the next scheduled Senate meeting following the absence in question.
  - B. A member of the President Pro Tempore's office, LJR Chair, and/or LJR Vice Chair shall present said petition to the Senate Executive Committee at the first meeting following the submission of said petition.
  - C. The petitioner must be present at the scheduled Senate Executive Committee, subsequent to the petition, state the reason for the absence as well as answer Committee member questions regarding the absence.

## Rule 7

D. A majority vote of the Senate can overturn the Senate Executive Committee's decision.

7.04 An absence from the first or final roll call of a Student Senate meeting will count as one half (1/2) of an absence. Student Senators who are late for Senate meetings will be excused from having a one-half (1/2) absence charged against them if they are not more than twenty (20) minutes late from the first roll call.

7.05 **The Blanket Excuse policy shall be as follows:**

A blanket excuse for missing up to two (2) hours of a Senate meeting to attend class may be granted for one (1) semester per Senate term by the Executive Committee, and forwarded to the Pro Tempore if, and only if, the Student Senator submits proof (such as transcripts, graduation requirement sheets, class offering schedules, or any other documents that the Student Senator feels are relevant to showing a valid and unavoidable reason for necessitating the excuse).

A. A blanket excuse shall not be counted against quorum and said Senator who is granted a blanket excuse shall be counted in the quorum at the time roll call is taken; unless the LJR Chair or Pro Tempore is notified that the Senator will miss the entire meeting.

B. A blanket excuse can be brought to the Senate floor and the Senate may overturn the Executive Committee's decision with a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

7.06 The Chair of the LJR Committee shall provide in writing to the Speaker of the Senate, prior to each regular Senate meeting, which Student Senators have collected more than one absence.

A. The Speaker of the Senate shall announce, at the meeting, the name(s) of the Senator(s) who have accrued more than two (2) absences from the Senate meetings; the offending Student Senator(s) shall be considered resigned from the Student Senate.

B. The resigned Student Senator, upon the announcement of their resignation, shall have until the end of the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting to appeal their absences or their resignation to the Senate.

C. The Senate may excuse any absence by a majority vote. When favorable Senate action causes a Student Senator who had been considered resigned to have, at most, two (2) absences, the Student Senator shall be reinstated.

7.07 A Senate Standing or Senate Ad Hoc Committee Chair shall inform the Speaker of the Senate meeting, which Student Senators have collected more than two (2) committee absences:

A. The Speaker of the Senate shall announce, at that same meeting, which Student Senator(s) have accrued more than two (2) committee absences (per committee); the offending Student Senator(s) shall be considered resigned from that/those committee(s).

B. The Senate may excuse any committee absence by a majority vote. When favorable Senate action causes a Student Senator who had been considered resigned to have, at most, two (2) committee absences, the Student Senator shall be reinstated.

## Rule 7

### **HISTORY:**

Bill 04-78 (02/10/72) Res 13-03 (02/03/81) Bill 16-05 (10/25/83)  
Res 16-19 (11/29/83) Res 18-02 (11/19/85) Res 18-03 (11/19/85)  
Res 18-06 (01/16/86) Res 19-35 (07/19/87) Res 21-03 (11/11/88)  
Res 23-04 (02/28/91) Res 24-03 (10/27/91) Res 24-12 (02/06/92)  
Res 24-21 (08/02/92) Res 25-04 (11/05/92) Res 25-24 (08/01/93)  
Res 26-22 (07/31/94) Res 26-22 (07/31/94) Res 27-16 (03/30/95)  
Bill 31-?? (00/00/00) Res 36-40 (00/00/00) Res 38-03 (11/18/05)  
Res 38-12 (02/23/06) Res 39-05 (02/11/07) Res 41-18 (02/28/09)  
Res 43-08 (1/15/11)