



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

1617-SC02
Webster

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MEMORANDUM 1617-SC02

TO: Members of the Student Assembly

FROM: Jakob T. Webster, Chair of the Military Affairs Committee

ENDORSED BY: Military Affairs Committee, Rules Committee

DATE: April 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Attendance Policy Accommodation for Veteran Drills and Training

Action Requested

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNY SA) adopt the following resolution to accommodate for Student Veterans that are negatively affected by their respective campus policies for class attendance, as a result of Drills and Training.

Resolution

Whereas the State University of New York's (SUNY) institutions enroll approximately 600,000 students across all sixty-four campuses with over seven thousand degree programs; and

Whereas SUNY promotes the academic success of students that are dedicated to earning a high-quality and affordable education through the progressive initiatives of SUNY system; and

Whereas SUNY SA is dedicated to promoting and advocating for the academic success of all students within the SUNY system through efforts such as the application of the SUNY SA Academic Affairs Committee, Military Affairs Committee, and other respective committees; and

Whereas academic professors instruct students in their desired course for both traditional and non-traditional classroom settings, present materials to students for assistance in their respective subject, and may consider attendance to promote beneficial learning experiences; and

Whereas students must be capable of attending regular class meeting times, are expected to stay punctual, and stay up to date with assigned classwork, to

ultimately pass and receive credit for the class, beneficial to their definitive goal of obtaining a college degree; and

Whereas SUNY institutions do not require students to attend classes, but it is within the best interest of students to attend classes as it provides them with both educational and financial benefits when those efforts result in a successful grade; and

Whereas professors define excusable absences to include emergencies, illness, and prior notice of said absence, but define unexcused absences to include lack of prior notice or a lack of excuse to absence, and

Whereas attendance policies also include students within the military community, who are held to the same standards as other students when concerning attendance policies; and

Whereas drills and training sessions held for students in the military are not guaranteed excuses from classes, and as a result, many students within the military community must either miss mandatory training and drills, or accept unexcused absences. These unexcused absences may result in failing grades for quizzes and tests held during that missed class, or for class projects due that day, and can result in the failure of the class as a whole; and

Whereas students within the military community should be excused for any mandatory drills and training required of their positions, without negative impact from their respective professors; and

Whereas this resolution shall require the informing of all SUNY professors on this new policy, to be included alongside other absences considered “excusable”, and that if this policy is not followed, it results in actions similar to situations where the professor refused a student a reasonable excuse; therefore be it

Resolved that SUNY SA recognizes the purpose and need for an adjustment in attendance policies to accommodate for students within the military community, so that their work in the military may not impede on their academic successes and achievements; and be it further

Resolved that SUNY SA recommends and supports the involvement of SUNY Administration for the adjustment of SUNY attendance policies across all SUNY campuses, to implement the inclusion of drills and training as excusable absences; and be it further

Resolved that SUNY Administration allow these provisions in support of the military community the opportunity to achieve success in their academics that may be impeded by absences related to their service; and be it finally

Resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed to the SUNY Board of Trustees, Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, Presidents and Chief Academic Officers of State-Operated and Community Colleges, Jan Trybula, Diana Pasterchick, Diversity Officers and Coordinators of all SUNY institutions, and SUNY Student Government Presidents.