

SENATE RULE 7: STUDENT SENATE ABSENCES

7.01 Senator Attendance Expectations

- A. Student Body Senators must attend all Senate Meetings and meetings of all standing and ad hoc committees on which they serve.
- B. Student Body Senators shall be allowed a collective maximum of two (2) unexcused absences from Senate Meetings, retreats, and leadership seminars per semester (Fall, Spring, Summer Session C) without being resigned from the Student Body Senate.

7.02 Initial Session and Semester Senate Meeting Absences

- A. Student Body Senators that will be absent from the first meeting of the Senate Session must give written notice to the Senate Graduate Assistant, prior to the first meeting of the new session.
 1. Should newly elected Student Body Senators receive an excuse for being absent from the first Senate Meeting of the session, they have until the Call of Order of the following Senate Meeting to get sworn in.
 2. Failure to be sworn in by the second Senate Meeting of the session will result in the automatic resignation of the newly elected Student Body Senator therefore having the seat will be considered vacant and the appointment process will be followed in accordance to Title III of Student Body Statutes.
- B. Student Body Senators must give written notice to the Senate President 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 Student Body Senator being considered resigned from their seat as of the end of the first meeting of that semester.
 2. Said Student Body Senator will have until the next regularly scheduled Senate Meeting to appeal the resignation in accordance to the procedures set forth in Senate Rule 7.08.

7.03 General Body Senate Meeting Absences

- A. Absences for one meeting shall be broken down into two parts as follows:
 1. Initial Roll Call
 2. Final Roll Call
- B. Student Body 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 thirty (30) minutes late from the first roll call.
- C. Student Body Senators must be present at the Senate Meeting until the completion of the Senate President Pro Tempore Report of the agenda to be marked present for initial roll call.

7.04 Committee Meeting Absences

- A. Student Body Senators shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) unexcused absences from Senate committee meetings per semester without being resigned from said committees. Student Body Senators who have been removed from a Senate standing committee on two (2) separate occasions shall be automatically resigned from the Student Body Senate.
- B. Absences shall not be counted for Senate Executive Committee meetings.

7.05 Senate Retreats and Leadership Seminars

- A. Only attendance from Senate-wide retreats shall count against a senator's absence limit
- B. Absences for retreats and leadership seminars shall be broken down into two parts as follows:
 1. Initial Roll Call
 2. Final Roll Call
- C. The procedure for hearing the Retreat or Seminar absence shall be the same as reflected in Section 7.06.

7.06 The Excuse Policy

The Excuse Policy shall be as follows:

- A. A Student Body Senator must submit a written petition, along with reasoning and evidence for the absence, requesting that an absence be expunged or excused, to the LJR Committee Chair, no more than ten (10) academic days after the absence in question.
- B. If a Student Body Senator is aware in advance that they will not be present at a certain Student Body Senate meeting, retreat, or leadership seminar, the Student Body Senator may submit a written petition, along with reasoning and evidence for the absence, requesting that the absence be excused, to the LJR Committee Chair, at any point before the occurrence of the absence.
- C. The LJR Committee shall review all excuses and vote to excuse or expunge the absence by a majority vote.
- D. All absence requests should be submitted at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the next regularly scheduled Legislative, Judicial, and Rules (LJR) Committee meeting to be heard in that meeting.
 1. For an absence to be excused or expunged it will require a simple majority vote of the LJR committee.
 2. If the vote does not receive a simple majority in favor it is deemed not excused or expunged.
- E. A written appeal of the decision of the LJR Committee may be submitted to the Senate President to be reviewed by the Senate Executive Committee, who may, by a majority vote, excuse or expunge an absence.
- F. A simple majority vote of the Senate, immediately following the decision of the Senate Executive Committee on the petition, can overturn said decision.

7.07 The Blanket Excuse Policy

- A. A blanket excuse to exempt a Student Body Senator from attendance at Senate Meetings and/or joining Senate Committees for academic purposes may be granted once (1) per semester by the Legislative, Judicial, and Rules Committee, and forwarded to the Senate President Pro Tempore if, the Student Body Senator submits proof (such as transcripts, graduation requirement sheets, class offering schedules, or any other documents that the Student Body Senator feels are relevant to showing a valid and unavoidable reason for necessitating the excuse).
- B. A blanket excuse request shall be sent to the Legislative, Judicial, and Rules Committee and granted on a case by case basis.

- C. A blanket excuse can be brought to the Senate Executive Committee and the Committee may overturn the decision of the Legislative, Judicial, and Rules Committee with a majority.
- D. A blanket excuse can be brought to the Senate Floor and the Student Body Senate may overturn the decision of the Executive Committee with a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

7.08 Responsibilities of the LJR Chair and Senate President

The LJR Chair shall provide in writing to the Senate President, prior to each regular Senate Meeting, which Student Body Senators have collected more than one unexcused absence.

- A. The Senate President shall announce, at the meeting, the name(s) of the Student Body Senator(s) who have accrued more than two (2) unexcused absences from the Senate Meetings; the offending Student Body Senator(s) shall be considered resigned from the Student Body Senate.
- B. The resigned Student Body 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 Student Body Senate.
- C. A majority vote of the Senate, immediately following the decision on the petition, can overturn said decision.

7.09 Senate Committee Attendance

- A. A Senate Standing or Senate Ad Hoc Committee Chair shall inform the Senate President, which Student Body Senators have collected more than two (2) unexcused committee absences:
- B. The Senate President shall announce, at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting, which Student Body Senator(s) have accrued more than two (2) unexcused committee absences (per committee); the offending Student Body Senator(s) shall be considered resigned from that committee(s).
- C. The resigned Student Senator, upon announcement of their resignation, shall have until the end of the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting to appeal their absences or their resignation from committee to the Senate Executive Committee.
- D. When a majority vote of the Senate Executive Committee causes a Student Body Senator who had been considered resigned from a committee to have, at most, two (2) unexcused committee absences, the Student Body Senator shall be reinstated to the committee.
- E. A majority vote of the Senate, immediately following the decision on the petition, can overturn said decision.

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 (01/15/11) Res 44-23 (06/18/12) Res 47-38 (08/06/15) Res 49-10 (03/09/17)
Res 50-06 (11/16/17) Res 50-16 (01/11/17) Res 50-61 (09/20/18) Res 51-42 (05/16/19)
Res 51-58 (09/19/19)