

**B F2019.05**

**An Amendment Chapters 2 and 5 of the Bylaws to Improve Absence Flexibility**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

23 October 2019

Sponsored by: Tyler R. Watt, Nicolas Pereira

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function and reflect current practices; and,

**Whereas**, members of LSA are required to maintain certain attendance requirements as enumerated in The College of Literature, Science and the Arts Student Government Bylaws (hereafter Bylaws); and,

**Whereas**, the culture of LSA SG promotes understanding among its members in order to promote good relations, internally and externally; and,

**Whereas**, the duty to record absences and determine which absences are excused and unexcused falls on the Secretary; and,

**Whereas**, the ability of the Secretary to be lenient in awarding excused absences has yet to be enumerated, though this ability provides an option for the Secretary that encourages members to remain in LSA SG despite other conflicts they may have.

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Bylaws be amended in accordance with Appendix A; and,

**Be it further resolved**, that the Bylaw amendment be enacted immediately and that the Secretary be moved to consider this policy in all future cases of absences.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

## Appendix A

### Chapter 2

#### Meeting Procedures

##### Absence Excuse Procedure

2.03.00 **Excusing Absences.** Any member wishing to be excused from any General Meeting, Committee Meeting, ~~or~~ Office Hour, *or other member obligation*, must submit a request to the Secretary before the week in which they will be absent. Approval for excused absences shall be the Secretary's *decision*, and any contestations shall be discussed ~~at the~~ by the Executive Board. *The Secretary may exercise reasonable leniency with regards to the conflicts that constitute legitimate absences, and the time required to notify the Secretary of an absence before it occurs.*

### Chapter 5

#### Minimum Attendance Requirement

5.01.02. **Excused Absences.** An absence ~~is~~ *shall be* excused by one of two methods:

(a) **Government Excused.** The Government may, by a two-thirds vote, excuse a member's absence for any reason.

(b) **The Secretary.** The Secretary shall excuse absences on behalf of the Government.

(c) **Legitimate Excused Absences.** Although absences may be excused for any reason by the Government, in order for the Secretary to excuse the absence, there must be a legitimate reason as deemed by the Secretary. Absences caused by unavoidable situations such as (but not limited to) exams, work meetings, religious observances can be excused provided that the Secretary knows at least 24 hours in advance. *The Secretary has the discretion to exercise leniency with regards to the time at which they are notified of an intended absence by a member before the absence occurs.* It is the responsibility of the member to explain any clarifying issues to the Secretary. If there is a foreseeable absence and it is not brought to the Secretary's attention in a timely manner, the member shall incur an absence. If there is an unexpected and unforeseeable absence such as a family or health crisis, the Secretary should be informed about these absences as soon as possible so that it may be excused. In cases where a person wishes to appeal an unexcused absence or the Secretary is uncertain about how to treat a certain absence, the Executive Board shall come to a decision on the absence by majority vote.