

TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

Memorandum

June 15, 2021

To: Dr. Vincent E. Morton, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

From: Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students *KaW*
Student Government Co-Advisor

Subject: Student Government Senate Bill Legislation 2020-2021.5

Legislation and the Student Body President's cover memo for S.B.2020-2021.05 "Excused Absences and Tardies for Chronic Illness or Disability Act," which was passed by the Student Government Senate on November 16th, 2020, is attached:

While I support Student Government being a self-regulating body that can make its own rules and procedures, I do not agree with the procedure set forth in this legislation. The procedure requires Senators who ask for an excused absence due to a disability to provide a note from a doctor or the Office of Disability Services to be submitted to the Senate Chair. This may require the student to disclose the nature of their disability to another student in order to receive an excused absence. The Senator who researched the legislation was advised against this approach by me and by the Director of the Office of Disability Services. I appreciate the Senate's attempt to be inclusive for Senators with disabilities, but I believe there is a better procedure that achieves being more inclusive and does not infringe on a student's privacy. A more inclusive approach may be for Student Government Student Senate to revise their Absence Policy to replace the types of absences and requirement of documentation with a total number of absences for each Senator.

Please note Senate Bills, like this one, are under the Dean of Students purview for response.

Cc; Dr. Angelica Coronado, Attorney for Students
Student Government Co-Advisor

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

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This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.



Memorandum

May 29, 2021

To: Dr. Vincent E. Morton, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students

From: Andrew Gryce, Student Body President

Subject: Student Government Passed Legislation: Senate Bill 2020-2021.5

Please find attached the below legislation S.B.2020-2021.5 passed by the Student Senate on November 16th, 2020.

Legislation Passed: S.B.2020-2021.5 Senate Bill Entitled Excused Absences and Tardies for Chronic Illness or Disability Act

Number of Vote: 29 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

I approve this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate entitled Excused Absences and Tardies for Chronic Illness or Disability Act that calls for the University to add up to 4 excused absences for documented Chronic Illness or Documented Disability.

AUTHOR

Senator Stephanos, Jenna
Senator DeSalvo, Cody

SPONSORS

Senator Haynes, KeAirra
Senator Adu-Nyako, Kojo
Senator Pata, Hunter
Senator Storts, Cassidy
Senator Gurvitz, Shoval

Date of First Reading: November 9th, 2020

S.B.2020-2021.5

A Bill

To be entitled “Excused Absences and Tardies for Chronic Illness or Disability Act,” which adds up to 4 absences for documented Chronic Illness or Documented Disability.

WHEREAS: The Senate should strive to be accommodating to all students and to accommodate their specific situations; and

WHEREAS: While it may be desirable to punish senators for absence, accommodation should be made for those with documented chronic illness or disability; and

WHEREAS: The Senate Standing Rules and Regulations do not currently specifically provide for absences for chronic illness or disability, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED: That the Senate Standing Rules and Regulations be amended in Article VII, Section 5 by inserting a new section (f) and rolling down existing paragraph (f) into a new paragraph (g):

- (f) Four (4) excused absences related to a Doctor documented or University Office of Disability Service documented chronic illness or disability. An absence related chronic illness or disability that causes an absence must be supported by a Doctor’s note or documentation from the Office of Disability Services and must be provided the Chairperson within 72 hours after the chronic illness or disability related absence; and

BE IT ENACTED: That the Senate Standing Rules and Regulations be amended in Article VII, Section 6 by inserting a new section (f) and rolling down existing paragraph (f) into a new paragraph (g):

- (f) Four (4) excused tardies related to a Doctor documented or University Office of Disability Service documented chronic illness or disability. A tardy related chronic illness or disability that causes a tardy must be supported by a Doctor's note or documentation from the Office of Disability Services and must be provided the Chairperson within 72 hours after the chronic illness or disability related tardy; and

BE IT ENACTED: That upon passage this Bill be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.