

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION #XXI-M15

Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee on Changes to Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities, articles 3.31–3.33


1. Motion presenter: Scott Smith, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 5/1/2017, 5/8/2017

3. Rationale: It is timely to consider a change in our “leave of absence” and “withdrawal” policies. At present, we have separate policies and criteria for a “medical withdrawal/leave,” which requires reapplication and readmission to the university, and “leave of absence,” which does not. The college deans and the office of Student Life, in consultation with the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Registrar, propose to simplify the policy and to have all semester or longer absences be referred to as leaves of absence rather than withdrawals that require later readmission. It is very difficult for advisors and other members of the university community to encourage students in crisis to take time away voluntarily when we only have the rather crude tool of “withdrawal.” The change in policy, and the language below, simplifies advising and also favors the mental and physical health of our students.

The following policy has been reviewed by ASAC, the Registrar's Office, and the Academic Affairs Committee, the last of which presents the following motion:

4. Motion: that UNH change its policy and have all semester or longer absences be referred to as leaves of absence, and that the following language replace the current language under Student Rights, Rules and Responsibilities 3.3.

5. Senate action: Motion passed with 61 votes in favor, 0 votes opposed, and 2 abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on May 9, 2017

President Mark Huddleston
Provost Nancy Targett
P.T. Vasudevan, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Ted Kirkpatrick, Dean of Students
All deans
All department chairs

Addendum: Revised wording for SRRR 03.3 Withdrawal from the University

3.31 General rule. A student may withdraw from the University in any semester by obtaining, completing, and submitting a withdrawal form from the Registrar's Office. Until mid-semester, students may withdraw from the University without academic liability, receiving a grade of W in all courses. Students withdrawing from the University after mid-

semester must be assigned a WP or WF by their instructors. The WF will be computed into the student's grade-point averages. Failure to register in any regular semester or to formally withdraw is considered a lapse in a student's degree status and a transcript notation is recorded "degree status discontinued." The student must subsequently apply for readmission. (For tuition rebate, see 11.241; for housing rebate, see 11.243; for dining rebate, see 14.5. For withdrawal grades, see 7.132(fs). For withdrawal for reasons of health, see 22.)

3.32 Leave of Absence. Any student not subject to any academic or conduct action wishing to seek a leave of absence from their degree program may consult with their respective college dean's office or the Office of the University Registrar. Reasons for requesting a leave of absence may include financial, academic, personal, or health reasons. Students who request a leave that begins while they are matriculated in a given semester will be subject to the rules governing refunds and the award of W, WP, and WF as noted in section 3.31. In most instances, however, leaves that are not health related begin after the completion of a semester.

Any student wishing to leave UNH for health reasons should go first to Health and Wellness to begin the process. Note that students who are granted a leave of absence for health reasons are prohibited from study away program participation during the duration of the leave, must remain on leave for one complete semester following the granting of the leave, and must be cleared by Health and Wellness before returning from a leave for health reasons.

Students returning from a leave for a Fall semester must notify the Registrar by June 1 of their intent to return and by November 1 when returning for Spring semester. Students will be reinstated into the same major at the point of their leave's start. Normally, leaves of absence may not exceed three academic years or six semesters, exclusive of J-Term and Summer Session. Exceptions to the leave of absence policy will be granted by the University Academic Standards and Advising Committee and only in unusual circumstances.

Until mid-semester, students may *take a Leave of Absence* from the University without academic liability, receiving a grade of W in all courses. Students *taking a Leave of Absence* from the University after mid-semester must be assigned a WP or WF by their instructors. The WF will be computed into the student's grade-point averages. Failure to return from a leave of absence or to formally withdraw is considered a lapse in a student's degree status in the next semester after three academic years have elapsed and a transcript notation is recorded "degree status discontinued." The student must subsequently apply for readmission. (For tuition rebate, see 11.241; for housing rebate, see 11.243; for dining rebate, see 14.5. For withdrawal grades, see 7.132(fs). For withdrawal for reasons of health, see 22.)