



RE: A request was submitted to the Judicial Council to interpret the Attendance Policy set forth by the Constitution.

The Constitution states the following:

Article III, Section 1

Attendance and active involvement within the Student Government Association shall be considered an important part of and expectation of all elected and appointed members of all meetings held within each respective branch of SGA

Article III, Section 2

Excused Absences for Senate Members: Members of the Senate shall be allowed no more than three (3) absences per semester, unless excused by the Judicial Council

The Bylaws state the following:

Article III, Section 5

Any member of the Senate that has excessive absences, and/or has already received a Censure, shall be referred by the Speaker of the Senate to the Judicial Council, pursuant to Article III, Section 3.5. of the SGA Constitution. Once the member in question is notified of his/her excessive absences, he/she shall appear before the Judicial Council to explain why the member was so frequently absent, and provide information as why excessive absences on their part shall not occur again. The Judicial Council shall meet and decide on the matter within seven (7) days of receiving it and shall notify all parties involved as soon as possible.

Judicial Council Interpretation of these clauses:

The Student Government Association Judicial Council decided that in the case of Senate attendance, the Council will rely on Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws of Western Kentucky University Student Government Association. Section 2 states that Members of the Senate shall be allowed no more than three absences per semester, unless excused by the Judicial Council. Since there is no other mention of absences regarding Student Senate absences, the Judicial Council has interpreted an excused absence as an absence with a prior notice given to the Speaker of the Senate, which has then been approved. In the event that prior notice cannot be given, then the ultimate discretion lies with the Speaker of the Senate and/or the Secretary of the Senate as well as the Chief Justice of the Judicial Council.

An unexcused absence will be judged on a "no call no show" basis. Once more, the ultimate discretion in this case lies with the Speaker of the Senate and/or Secretary of the Senate. One unexcused absence in either a Senate meeting or committee meeting will be acceptable, more than once unexcused absence will result in Judicial Council review.

In the event that a Senator misses a committee meeting on the same day as Senate meetings, the Senator in question, is required to attend a different committee meeting later in the week. If

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the aforementioned Senator fails to do so, his inaction will result in another unexcused absence, in which case he will be brought to the Judicial Council for review.

In regard to the issue of Senators leaving Senate meetings early, the Judicial Council has decided that unless these are known about in advance and have been cleared with the Speaker and/or Secretary of the Senate, leaving early will be left to the interpretation of the Speaker and/or Secretary of the Senate and could result in being regarded as either an excused or unexcused absence.

Those found to be in violation of the attendance policy will be brought for Judicial Review, and could result in the removal of the Senator from the Student Government Association.

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