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MEMORANDUM

To: Charles Delwiche, Chair, Senate Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee

From: Adam Berger, Chair, Senate Student Affairs Committee

Date: October 6, 2015

Re: Charge Amendment to Proposed Policy on Excused Absence (Senate Document #14-15-21)

I am writing on behalf of the Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) regarding its consideration of the amendment to the charge on Proposed Policy on Excused Absences that was sent to the Senate Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee and to the SAC in September 2015.

The Student Affairs Committee was asked to review a new proposal to include military obligations in the Proposed Policy on Excused Absences and to consider the impact of the proposal on undergraduate students. The SAC reviewed the proposal at its meetings in September and early October 2015. After consideration, the SAC recommends that the APAS Committee include military obligations in its final Proposed Policy on Excused Absences. This recommendation was unanimously agreed upon by the SAC members.

During its consideration, a few issues were raised that the Student Affairs Committee would suggest APAS take into consideration as it finalizes its work on this policy:

Appropriate Language: The SAC discussed how best to incorporate this into the proposed policy and felt that simply adding “military obligations” to the policy could be appropriate. However, the committee would recommend consulting with the Office of Veteran Student Life and the Office of General Counsel to ensure that the language is broad enough to encompass any type of responsibility that could be required of a student involved in national defense or military service.

Application to International Students: The SAC noted that the language as currently written would likely apply to international students who are called for military obligations in other countries. The SAC has no objection to this, but suggests that the APAS Committee may want to be aware of this during its review and consider whether consultation with the Office of International Student & Scholar Services would be necessary to understand the implications of this proposal for international undergraduate students.

AB/seh