**Resolution to Support Caregiving Students with Statement about Dependents in Class**

Educational Policy & Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee

DRAFT FOR FIRST READ (updated on 3.24.2024)

Whereas Ohio University recognizes that students may need or benefit from supports that enable them to persist in their courses and complete their degrees;

Whereas Ohio University’s campuses (and higher education institutions more generally) increasingly enroll students who also have caregiving responsibilities;

Whereas the United States continues to experience a societal shortage of affordable caregiving options and a lack of caregiving may force students to miss their classes;

Whereas Ohio University strives to create inclusive classroom environments for all students and make higher education a viable option for all;

Whereas the presence of others in class may disrupt the learning of other students and some learning environments are not safe for all; therefore,

Be it resolved that Ohio University acknowledges that access to caregiving is an essential need which must be met in order for some students to persist and be successful in higher education;

Be it further resolved that all faculty should examine their course content, learning environments, classroom capacity, safety concerns, need for advance notice and/or prior approval, department or college policy, and any other relevant factors to assess if and under what circumstances a minor child or other person for whom students have caregiving responsibilities might attend a class meeting in case of a caregiving emergency;

Be it further resolved that faculty within a department or college should discuss the development of a consistent college or department policy regarding minor children or other persons attending class meetings or particular types of classes;

Be it further resolved that faculty/instructors of record should make the results of that examination and resulting course policy available to all students at the beginning of the course in the syllabus so that students with caregiving responsibilities may plan appropriately when caregiving emergencies arise;

Be it further resolved that should a minor child or other person for whom students have caregiving responsibilities attend class with the student, the student is expected to be **fully responsible for and maintain the care, custody, and control of the minors or other persons at all times**;

Be it further resolved that should a minor child or other person for whom students have caregiving responsibilities attend class with the student, and the student is unable to maintain the care, custody, and control of the minors or other persons or any class member is unable to achieve learning outcomes due to the presence of the minors or other persons in class, instructors of record can request the removal of the minors or other persons.