RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BEREAVEMENT LEAVE POLICY FOR GRIEVING STUDENTS

Educational Policy & Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee

Faculty Senate

Ohio University

DRAFT FIRST READ (updated on 3.24.2024)

Whereas student Senate that serves to represent the students of Ohio University has passed bill to support the establishment of a bereavement leave policy for students; and

Whereas Ohio University does not currently have a Bereavement Leave Policy for students despite the fact that employees have such a policy; and

Whereas college Students may be significantly affected by the death of a loved one and a bereavement leave policy would communicate respect and compassion for students as individuals who experience difficult life events for which they need support;

Whereas creating a centralized policy to support grieving students would ease burdens on students needing accommodations and on faculty in determining what accommodations are appropriate; therefore, be it

Resolved: That a Student Bereavement Leave Policy be established for all Ohio University students that is managed by the Office of the Dean of Students and included in the Graduate and Undergraduate Catalogs;

Be it further resolved that upon needing to avail themselves of this policy, a student or their representative contact the Office of the Dean of Students who will notify all the student’s instructors, collect documentation such as an obituary or funeral program, and provide a letter of absence within reasonable time prior to the final date of absence;

Be it further resolved that he policy allow up to five days of bereavement leave as determined by the Office of the Dean of Students or his/her designee, which includes any days forgiven by course instructors, in the event of the death of an immediate family member who shall be defined as any child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, a legal guardian or other person who stands in place of a parent (in loco parentis), spouse and the spouse’s immediate family, domestic partners and the domestic partner's immediate family, and other significant persons in a student’s life as per discretion of Office of the Dean of Students;

Be it further resolved that absences due to bereavement do not excuse students from meeting the requirements for the course or mastering course content.; students remain responsible for mastering the content of any missed class and completing any assignments or learning objectives missed while taking bereavement leave.