SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A BEREAVEMENT LEAVE POLICY FOR
GRIEVING STUDENTS

Educational Policy & Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee
Faculty Senate
May 6, 2024
PASSED

Whereas Student Senate passed bill 2324-02 to support the establishment of a bereavement leave policy for grieving students; and

Whereas Ohio University does not currently have a Bereavement Leave Policy for students; and

Whereas Ohio University has a Bereavement Leave Policy for Ohio University employees (University Policy 40.029); and

Whereas college students may be significantly affected by the death of a loved one; and’

Whereas a bereavement leave policy would communicate respect and compassion for students as individuals who experience difficult life events for which they need support; and

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 Faculty Senate recommends a Student Bereavement Leave Policy be established for all Ohio University students.

Be it further resolved that a Student Bereavement Policy be developed through a collaboration among Faculty Senate, the Office of the Provost, and the Dean of Students (or designee).

Be it further resolved that such a policy be informed by guiding principles that include 1) easing the burden on grieving students in contacting instructors, negotiating time away from class, and providing documentation, 2) balancing appropriate time away from classes that students may need with maintaining attendance that supports successful class completion, and 3) maintaining instructors’ authority in determining how students make up missed class requirements and assignments.