RESOLUTION TO FORM TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH CAREGIVING RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Whereas nationally 32% of students pursuing an associate degree program and 16% of those pursuing a bachelor's degree report they are parents with caregiving responsibilities and 42% of student parents with caregiving responsibilities have considering stopping their education;¹ and

Whereas Ohio has documented a lack of available childcare with 39% of Ohioans living in a “childcare desert”² which are most prevalent in rural areas;

Whereas Ohio has documented a childcare affordability crisis, with a typical Ohio household able to afford only $4,700 annually on childcare despite an annual cost ranging from $7,977 to $11,438 per child;³

Whereas students with childcare responsibilities without childcare options may ask to bring minors to classes regularly or infrequently (in cases of emergency) when childcare responsibilities conflict with class attendance; and

Whereas there is no policy to guide faculty or students with caregiving responsibilities who are experiencing gaps in childcare coverage that affects class attendance; and

Whereas the Educational Policy & Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee of Faculty Senate has had an increase in the number of inquiries about university-level policies, practices, and/or guidance related to students bringing minors to classes;

Whereas policies related to minors in the classroom need to account for a wide variety of considerations including (but not limited to) physical space, safety, course content, minor well-being, student well-being, minor care/custody, and potential impact on other students;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Faculty Senate recommends the creation of a task force charged with developing recommendations and considerations to 1) support faculty in creating course policies related to minors in the classroom and 2) to mitigate inequities associated with childcare for all members of the university community on all campuses.

Be it further resolved that Faculty Senate will collaborate with the Office of the Provost (or designee) to establish a task force that includes representatives from academic colleges and

regional campuses, Faculty Senate, Legal Services, Human Resources, Office of Accessibility Services, Student Affairs, and Graduate Student Senate.

Be it further resolved that the task force recommendations and report be presented to Faculty Senate for review and consideration.