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## SGA Attendance Policy

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*Approved by the Faculty Senate: Motion Withdrawn*  
*Not Approved by the Faculty Senate*  
*Approved by the President*  
*Not Approved by the President*

## SGA attendance policy

Submitted by Student Government Association/Amy Hilewitz

4/16/1998

Ms. Hilewitz moved for a vote on the SGA attendance policy (seconded) and asked that John Bryson be permitted to speak on behalf of the student body.

Mr. John Bryson (SGA) said that the policy distinguished between core and non-core curriculum classes. He felt that students taking non-core classes will attend as they have already invested a significant amount of time and money. He said he believed attendance policies are necessary in core curriculum classes, however, to 1) "weed out the students who really don't belong here at this University," or 2) "ensure that students . . . have some kind of motivation to get them on the right track. he noted that the policy also deals with absences as a result of illness or religious holidays. He said the main point of the policy is that "students not be academically penalized for not attending class on non-grade assessment days." He added that students might get notes or tape record class discussion. He concluded that students are required to identify their religious affiliation when applying to the University.

Dr. Jack Nolen said that was optional, not required.

Dr. Joanne Chopak (CHPS) asked if the SGA had looked at policies at comparable institutions, and disputed that students in major courses attend more regularly. Ms. Hilewitz said that UGA left attendance to the professor's discretion.

Mr. Bryson said that "as students we feel like once we move into areas that are outside of the core curriculum, if there are days that we have to miss, . . . we certainly have every right to do that." He noted that COBA has a policy that students may be academically penalized after three days'absence.

Dr. Carl Gooding (COBA) said that is incorrect.

Dr. Anne Pierce (COST) said believed the Senate applauded some of the policy's points, but that it was important that senators consult with their peers. She further said that there is a difference between participating in classroom discussion and getting another student's notes, and added that

the SGA policy ran counter to academic freedom.

Mr. Gavin Shook (Public Relations Coordinator, SGA) said he had served on the Senate ad hoc attendance committee of two years ago.

Dr. J. B. Claiborne (COST) said he had volunteered to serve on an SGA committee addressing attendance and provided his schedule, but had never heard from the SGA office.

Dr. Marc Cyr (CLASS) said he too had served on the ad hoc committee and that other institutions had been examined. He added that the process of coming up with the committee's report was thorough, and that he would vote against the SGA proposal since its expression contained internal contradictions.

Dr. Clara Krug (CLASS) said that she objected to the SGA policy since there 1) there was insufficient time to consult with colleagues, 2) "excused" absences was inadequately defined, 3) the contention that more students attend major classes was not documented, and 4) if majors are motivated, why would a policy that allows majors to be absent be necessary?

Ms. Hilewitz withdrew her motion to vote on the policy; the second also withdrawn.

Mr. Gavin Shook suggested the outgoing SGA representatives might consult eighth the incoming representatives to consider further proposing a policy.