University of Central Oklahoma Student Congress

2nd Meeting of the Spring Session of the 26th Legislature

CR22-202 Authors: Senator Barry, Senator Boyd

An act regarding equity for uninsured students in relation to attendance; developing an official stance of UCOSA for the current policy; urging the University to develop a new policy eliminating the initial requirement of doctor’s notes to avoid penalty prior to the Fall semester of 2023.

WHEREAS, 25% of Oklahomans between the ages of 19-34 are uninsured (Census Bureau 2021), and the average urgent care visit in Oklahoma City is $172 (MIRA 2022), and

WHEREAS, approximately 12% of students that comprise the on campus student population do not have immediate access to a healthcare facility and 5% do not have private transportation to visit a medical professional (UCO Analytics 2021), and

WHEREAS, The University of Central Oklahoma leaves attendance policies to at the professor's discretion, which can be abused by faculty to create unnecessarily authoritarian policies disproportionately affecting students who do not have access to healthcare or financial means to cover copays and other associated medical costs, and

WHEREAS, the uninsured and at-risk student population should not be penalized by attendance policies, especially if the student is meeting all other requirements set forth by he university and classroom syllabi, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UCO STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The University of Central Oklahoma Student Association’s official stance on attendance policies and the requirement of doctor’s notes to avoid penalties, as it currently stands, unfairly places a financial burden on low-income, uninsured, and international students. It is the duty of higher educational institutions to not place barriers toward a students education, but remove them. We ask that the University administration and faculty senate work together to provide a more rigid and standardized attendance policy that does not require doctor’s notes to permit an excused absence in the instance of illness.

Section 1. This legislation shall be distributed to the following.

Dr. Andrew Benton, Interim President

Dr. Charlotte Simmons, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Alyssa Provencio, Faculty Senate President

Reviewing Committee(s): Campus Development

Committee Recommendation: [ DO PASS / DO FAIL / NO RECOMMENDATION ]

Action Taken by Congress: [ PASSED / FAILED ]

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| Alexis Howry, Chair of the UCO Student Congress Date  |
| Josh Chao, President of the UCO Student Association Date |

Legislative Override: [ OVERRIDDEN / NOT OVERRIDDEN / POCKET APPROVAL ]