

To: The Purdue University Senate
From: Chris Clifton, Chair, Student Affairs Committee
Subject: Purdue Student Government Resolution on Jury Duty Absence Policy
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion

WHEREAS, According to the Indiana Judicial Branch: “Jury duty represents one of the most important civic responsibilities we have as citizens. When you fulfill your obligation for jury service, you are helping to protect our liberties and to preserve our system of justice”ⁱ; and

WHEREAS, “If a prospective juror fails to appear under the supervising judge’s order or fails to show good cause for the failure to appear as directed by the jury administrator, the prospective juror is subject to criminal contempt”ⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Most Purdue students meet the qualifications to serve a term of jury serviceⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Purdue University recognizes the importance of jury duty and witness duty as civic duties (Purdue University Policy VI.E.2)^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, Purdue students may be required to attend jury duty or witness duty during an academic term; and

WHEREAS, Status as a student does not exempt any person from serving jury duty or witness duty; and

WHEREAS, Purdue Student Senate Resolution 17-11 supports the addition of a clause in the Student Absence Policy explicitly denoting jury duty and witness duty as excused absences for Purdue students and asks that the University Senate deliberate on this matter;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Purdue University Senate supports the addition of a clause in the Student Absence Policy explicitly denoting jury duty and witness duty as excused absences for Purdue students.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Clifton, Chair
Student Affairs Committee

Approve:

Heather Beasley
Chris Clifton
Matt Conaway
Rayvon Fouché
Jason Harris
Russell Jones
Kenji Matsuki

Beth McCuskey
David Sanders
Anumitha Venkatraman

Not Present:

Brad Alge
Tom Atkinson
James L. Mohler
Jon Story
Steve Wereley

- i . Indiana Judicial Branch. Serving Jury Duty. <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2627.htm>
- ii . Indiana Code 2017: IC 33-28-5-17. <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/laws/2017/ic/titles/033#33-28>
- iii . United States Courts. Juror Qualifications. <http://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/jury-service/juror-qualifications>
- iv . Purdue University Policy Office. Leave for Faculty, Continuing Lecturers, and Administrative, Professional, Clerical, and Service Staff (VI.E.2)