

**To:** Purdue University Senate  
**From:** The Educational Policy Committee (EPC)  
**Subject:** Amendment to MEAPS policy (SD21-12) to clarify applicability  
**Reference:** [Senate Document 21-12](#) Proposal for a Medically Excused Absence Policy for Students (MEAPS) to be added to Purdue University Main Campus Academic Regulations  
**Disposition:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

**Rationale:** The Office of the Dean of Students has conveyed to the EPC that there has been overuse of MEAPS for minor health issues by employing a trip to Urgent Care to trigger accommodation through ODOS using MEAPS, and recognizing that this mechanism is unfairly biased against less-wealthy students who cannot readily afford to use Urgent Care facilities.

The changes in language proposed clarify that, as stated in SD21-12, “this policy is to afford arrangements for students experiencing serious and short-term medical situations,” and not for minor or chronic illnesses.

**Proposal:** Revision of SD21-12 language to rationalize overuse of MEAPS for minor illnesses, as requested by the Office of the Dean of Students.

### **Current Language**

Background: Purdue University recognizes that students may occasionally have to miss class and other academic obligations due to hospitalization, emergency department or urgent care visits, whether physical or mental health related in nature. This Senate Document intends to describe the change in academic regulations that students may follow in requesting a medically excused absence as well as what rights and responsibilities are placed on students, instructors, and the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). The guidelines put

### **Proposed Language**

Background: Purdue University recognizes that students may occasionally have to miss class and other academic obligations **for urgent or emergent health related reasons**, whether physical or mental health related in nature. **This would include visits to an emergency room, being hospitalized, or being seen at a surgery center.** This Senate Document intends to describe the change in academic regulations that students may follow in requesting a medically excused absence as well as what rights and

forth in this Senate Document are designed to protect student privacy and wellbeing while providing instructors and administration with the information necessary to decide what options exist for eligible students to make up missed coursework. An emphasis is placed on balancing student arrangements with academic integrity, and as such, required documentation is outlined below as well.

responsibilities are placed on students, instructors, and the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). The guidelines put forth in this Senate Document are designed to protect student privacy and wellbeing while providing instructors and administration with the information necessary to decide what options exist for eligible students to make up missed coursework. An emphasis is placed on balancing student arrangements with academic integrity, and as such, required documentation is outlined below as well.

### **Committee Votes:**

#### **For:**

##### **Faculty**

Eric Kvam (Chair)  
Abdelfattah Nour  
Alice Pawley  
PV Ramachandran  
Mark Russell  
Antônio Sá Barreto  
Steven Scott  
John Sheffield  
Howard Sypher  
Monica Torres

##### **Advisors**

Lesa Beals  
Jeff Elliott  
Jenna Rickus  
Jeffery Stefancic

##### **Students**

Adewole Babalola  
Shye Robinson

#### **Against:**

N/A

#### **Abstained:**

N/A

#### **Absent:**

##### **Faculty**

Burton (Lee) Artz  
Daniel Frank  
Stacy Lindshield  
Jeffrey X. Watt

##### **Students**

Andrew Askounis