

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AA-004-190

Accommodations of Military Students' Service Obligations (Less than 30 Days)

Academic Affairs Committee

Date: February 2021

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: April 7, 2021

Academic Senate

Date: April 14, 2021
First Reading
May 5, 2021
Second Reading

Background

Your Name: Phyllis Nelson

Your Email: prnelson@cpp.edu

Title of Referral: Accommodations of Military Students' Service Obligations

Names and Titles of proponents: Elke Azpeitia, Director, Veterans Resource Center
Phyllis Nelson, Chair, Academic Senate

Keywords: accommodation, military, service

Is there a deadline by when this referral needs to be considered by the Academic Senate?:
No

Deadline Date:

Justification for deadline:

Background: The campus lacks guidelines to assist faculty in choosing appropriate accommodations for students with military service obligations, including National Guard, Reserve, and active duty, for absences of fewer than 30 days. Unlike longer absences, federal law (34 CFR 668.18) does not apply.

The Academic Senate of the CSU passed resolution AS-3295-17/FGA/AA (Rev) in March of 2017 urging campus senates and administrations to adopt academic practices regarding reasonable accommodations (e.g. alternate test dates and assignment deadlines, drop/withdrawal policies, attendance policies) for students with such military service obligations to facilitate their successful course completion. Currently Cal Poly Pomona does not have such a policy. This referral requests that the Academic Senate develop such a policy.

Recommended Resources: AS-3295-17/FGA/AA (Rev) (<https://www2.calstate.edu/csusystem/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2016-2017/3295.pdf>) which is attached.

Laura Massa, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs
Deans
Associate Deans
Department Chairs
Faculty
Elke Azpeitia, Director, Veterans Resource Center

Attachment 1:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2070179/36745860/549654970/3295.pdf>

Discussion

Ideally, we need a policy that allows departments and students to make the best decision without inhibiting progress toward graduation or sacrificing quality of education. In the end, creating a departmental policy, while making students aware of risks seemed most ideal.

Recommendations:

The Committee recommends the adoptions of the following Policy:

Accommodations of Military Student Service Obligations (Less than 30 Days)

Students called to fulfill military service obligations of less than 30 days and who are currently enrolled in courses should be given every opportunity to successfully complete coursework. Alternate exam dates, assignment dates, and an opportunity to complete outstanding work is required. Military service is considered an excused absence and students may not be penalized for missing class, assignments, or exams, while fulfilling military service obligations.

The University recognizes that professional guidelines, ethics, and requirements could mean that even a short absence would leave a student at a significant disadvantage in some programs, courses, labs or projects.

The University short-term Military Service Obligations Policy (Less than 30 days) includes the following:

- 1) Regarding timelines and procedures for completing work missed at different points in the semester.
 - a. The student will be allowed to work with the Department Chair and/or Associate Dean to complete any outstanding coursework in cases in which the instructor of record cannot do so (For example, an adjunct, retiree, or faculty member out on leave, is no longer available)
 - b. A student will be allowed to receive an Incomplete Authorized "I" grade. An Incomplete Contract must be created by the instructor of record and accepted by the student.
 - c. A reasonable extension will be granted to a student for any outstanding or incomplete coursework.
- 2) If required to complete coursework, a student will be given access to specific and secure facilities, or provided reasonable alternatives.
- 3) If required to complete internship requirements, a student will be provided with specific instructions and reasonable alternatives.
- 5) If a student is called to service more than once or for a significant period of the semester, the department will indicate if it is feasible for the student to complete the courses. Departments may indicate that some courses must be completed in person for valid reasons, such as accreditation requirements, licensure requirements, supervisory requirements, and so forth.
 - a. In such cases, a student will be given the option of withdrawal with a WX instead of Incomplete ("I") or Withdrawal Unauthorized ("WU").
- 6) Student will be made aware of any potential repercussions of withdrawal or grades of Incomplete in regards to financial aid and VA Educational Benefits. (For example, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards for Financial Aid Applicants – withdrawing from a course, including receiving a WX, or receiving a grade of Incomplete may have a negative impact on the student's SAP status and financial aid eligibility). Impacted student should be directed to contact Cal Poly Pomona's Veterans Resource Center to determine how recommendations may impact a student's financial aid eligibility, and/or VA educational benefits. This will ensure that a student's circumstances are well assessed before any recommendation is communicated to the student.
- 7) A student should contact the Veterans Resource Center for assistance in navigating the military leave of absence process.
- 8) This policy is effective starting Fall 2021.