

Scholastic Standards Committee  
To the University Senate  
April 7, 2025

**Background & Summary of Action:**

The Senate Scholastic Standards Committee presents a motion to the University Senate to revise the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Article II, E. 9 Class Attendance. Prior language was unclear and had the potential to confuse guidance provided by the Office of the Provost regarding class material for University closures. It was also written before the widespread availability of synchronous and asynchronous modes of instruction by all faculty.

This revision clarifies how instructors are to manage class sessions affected by University closings. They support the principle of assuming that at least some students will have issues accessing synchronous content during periods of closure. Revised bylaw language ensures that students are protected from rapid pivots to online content. Updated language provides flexibility to allow optional synchronous instruction during a closure, but only with equivalent asynchronous content.

Specifically, the updates do the following:

- Instructors must provide sufficient time after the University reopens to schedule and complete work. *SSC intentionally chose “sufficient time” rather than a pre-determined time (e.g., 72 hours) as this is a by-law; specific times will be determined by instructors for specific closures and guidance may be provided by the Provost.*
- Instructors must provide clear communication about missed work and assessments, including notification of rescheduled assessments, due dates, and penalties for late submissions. *SSC advocates for transparency of information to students.*
- During a University closure, instructors must not require students to attend synchronous class sessions or to submit assessments, but they may provide asynchronous online instruction. *SSC clarifies that instructors are not permitted to require students to be present for synchronous online class sessions or submit assessments during a University closure, but that instructors can post asynchronous online instruction.*
- Instructors may reschedule class sessions on emergency make-up dates authorized by the Registrar. Any rescheduled sessions should avoid conflicts including, but not limited to, religious observances and other previously scheduled University obligations. *Consistent with the original by-law, SSC acknowledges that instructors may provide online instruction, utilize the make-up days authorized by the Registrar, and should avoid conflicts (as previously specified).*
- Annually, the Provost provides guidance on academic issues related to closures. *SSC recognizes the role of the Provost in University closure.*

## **Current Bylaw Language:**

### **Article II, E. 9 Class Attendance**

In the event that the University is closed due to inclement weather or other emergency on a regularly scheduled class day, instructors are expected to make reasonable attempts to complete all stated course learning objectives by the last day of classes. Approaches that an instructor may use to ensure the completion of all stated course learning objectives include, but are not limited to:

- a. Scheduling class make up on the “Emergency Closing Make Up Date(s)” designated by the Registrar’s Office in the University Calendar.
- b. Scheduling class make up at other times
- c. Extending class times
- d. Using educational technology and other not in-person alternatives.

In all situations in which stated course objectives would be completed outside of the regularly scheduled class time, it is essential that instructors should be sensitive to students’ inability to attend these alternative class times due to unavoidable conflicts such as, but not limited to, religious observances and other previously scheduled University obligations. Reasonable accommodation should be offered to students with such conflicts.

### **Proposed Bylaw Change (as written and presented at the March 3, 2025 Senate Meeting):**

When an instructor’s scheduled class sessions are impacted by University closure (e.g., inclement weather), the instructor is expected to make reasonable arrangements for students to make up missed work and assessments. In making these arrangements, instructors must:

- a. Provide sufficient time after the University reopens to schedule and complete missed work and assessments.
- b. Provide clear communication about missed work and assessments, including notification of rescheduled assessments, due dates, and penalties for late submissions.

During a period of university closure, instructors must not require students to attend synchronous class sessions or to submit assessments.

Instructors may reschedule class sessions and assessments on emergency make-up dates authorized by the Registrar. Any rescheduled sessions should avoid conflicts including, but not limited to, religious observances and other previously scheduled University obligations.

Annually, the Provost provides guidance on academic issues related to closures.

### **AMENDED Proposed Bylaw Change (*replacing the above*):**

**In the event of University cancellations or closures that impact the class schedule**, (e.g., inclement weather), the instructor is expected to make reasonable arrangements for students to make up missed work and assessments. In making these arrangements, instructors must:

- c. Provide sufficient time after the University reopens or classes resume to schedule and complete missed work and assessments.
- d. Provide clear communication about missed work and assessments, including notification of rescheduled assessments, due dates, and penalties for late submissions.

During a period of University changes to class schedule, instructors must not require students to attend synchronous class sessions or to submit assessments.

Instructors may reschedule class sessions and assessments on emergency make-up dates authorized by the Registrar. Any rescheduled sessions should avoid conflicts including, but not limited to, religious observances and other previously scheduled University obligations.

Annually, the Provost provides guidance on academic issues related to cancellations or closures that impact the class schedule.

68 YAY, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN