THE FACULTY SENATE

June 19, 1995

Dr. Ray M. Bowen
President
Texas A&M University

Dear President Bowen:

At its regular meeting held June 12, 1995 the Faculty Senate approved the enclosed changes to the 1995-1996 Texas A&M University Regulations and recommends them for your approval. The following sections were amended on the floor of the Senate:

Sections: 15(1) and (3) Attendance Policy (page 9 of 61); 23(3) Grade Point Ratio (page 15 of 61); 30(3)(a) Scholastic Deficiency (page 17 of 61); 31(d) Scholastic Probation (page 18 of 61); 58(1) Withdrawal Procedures (page 20 of 61); and Student Grievance Procedures, subsection Grievance Procedures, 1. Illegal Discrimination.

The remainder of the sections were approved as submitted by the Rules and Regulations Committee.

Thank you for considering these items. Please inform me of your action on these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Pierce E. Cantrell
Speaker, 1995-96

Enclosure

cc: Dr. J. Charles Lee, Interim Executive Vice President & Provost
    Dr. Brent G. Paterson, Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee

APPROVED

DATE

7-18-95
MEMORANDUM

TO:       Dr. Pierce E. Cantrell
          Speaker, The Faculty Senate

SUBJECT:  Faculty Senate Changes to 1995-96 Texas A&M University Regulations

I hereby revise my approval of Faculty Senate changes to the 1995-96 Texas A&M University Regulations. I have found an error. Everything in your memo of June 19 regarding the June 12 Faculty Senate changes is approved with the exception of the Student Grievance Procedures, Subsection Grievance Procedures, 1. Illegal Discrimination. This section is not approved.

Ray M. Bowen

cc:       Dr. J. Charles Lee
          Dr. J. Malon Southerland
          Dr. Brent G. Paterson
Memo to: Patty Steele.

Patty - the memo sent to Dr. Cantrell yesterday regarding Faculty Changes to 1995-96 TAMU Rules and Regulations is correct, but the effective date of changes in the withdrawal procedures [58(1)] would be delayed as recommended in Dr. Sheppard's memo of July 7, 1995 (attached). Thanks.

Sheran Riley
Assistant to the President
Memo to: Dr. Pierce E. Cantrell

July 19, 1995

The attached has been approved and is returned for further handling.

Ray M. Bowen

cc: Dr. J. Charles Lee
Dr. Sallie Sheppard
Dr. Brent Paterson
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Ray M. Bowen
President

THROUGH: Dr. J. Charles Lee
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

FROM: Dr. Sallie V. Sheppard
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs and Academic Services

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Recommendations on Changes to 1995-1996 Texas A&M University Regulations

July 7, 1995

The Academic Operations Committee (AOC) considered both sets of changes recommended by the Faculty Senate to the 1995-1996 Texas A&M University Regulations (FS.12.078 on April 10, and additional changes on June 12). We recommend that President Bowen endorse these recommendations with one addition:

The changes in Section 58, Withdrawal Procedures, relating to the “W” grade and Q-drop deadline, would become effective January 1, 1996.

We recommend delaying the effective date of the changes in the withdrawal procedures so that there will be adequate time to notify students and faculty of the changes. The other changes included in Section 58 should be implemented immediately.

Suggested wording is attached.

SVS/cw

Attachment
xc: Dr. Brent Paterson, Chair
Rules and Regulations Committee

Ms. Jeanette Phariss
UNIVERSITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

PROPOSED REVISIONS FOR 1995-1996

58. Withdrawal Procedures

(1) A student desiring to withdraw from the university (drop to zero hours) before the completion of a semester is required to comply with the official withdrawal procedure. This process is initiated in the dean’s office of the college in which the student is registered. This process must be completed by 5 p.m. the day withdrawal is initiated. Effective January 1, 1996, students may not withdraw after the Q Drop deadline.

(3) When a student withdraws from the university, the permanent record will read as follows:

(a) During the first five twelve class days of a fall or spring semester or the first three four class days of a five-week term or 10-week summer term, no record is entered.

(b) Students withdrawing from the university after the fifth twelfth class day of a fall or spring semester, or the third fourth class day of a summer term or 10-week summer semester, will receive grades of WP or WF. WF’s, but not WP’s shall be taken into account in determining the grade point ratio. Effective January 1, 1996, students withdrawing from the university after the twelfth class day of a fall or spring semester but before the Q Drop deadline or the fourth class day of a summer term or 10-week summer semester but before the Q Drop deadline, will be assigned a grade of “W” by the Registrar.
June 23, 1995

Dr. Pierce E. Cantrell, Speaker, 1995-96
The Faculty Senate
Mail Stop 1225

Dear Doctor Cantrell:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 19, 1995, regarding the debate in The Faculty Senate at its June 12, 1995, meeting, when it considered changes to section 15 on Attendance Policy of the University Rules and Regulations as proposed by the Rules and Regulations Committee!

Upon receiving your letter I investigated the complaints of "at least two senators" that current excuses do not necessarily indicate treatment at the Health Center, but only that the student had presented himself or herself and requested an excuse. To my profound embarrassment I found the complaint to be valid; more than that I found that I had signed a number of these excuses. Consequently I have directed that excuses with such limited information will not be issued. I humbly apologize to you, to all members of The Faculty Senate, and to the entire University community for having been responsible for these miscommunications. In the future we will indicate whether or not treatment was given at the Health Center.

I hope this clarification is helpful.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Dirks, M.D.
Director

xc: Dr. Ray M. Bowen, President, Texas A&M University
    Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Vice President for Student Affairs
    Dr. Bill Kibler, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
    Mr. Bill Helwig, Office of General Counsel
    Dr. Brent Paterson, Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee
THE FACULTY SENATE
June 19, 1995

Dr. Kenneth R. Dirks, Director
Department of Student Health Services
Texas A&M University
1264

Dear Dr. Dirks:

The Faculty Senate at its meeting on June 12, 1995 considered proposed changes to section 15 on Attendance Policy of the University Rules and Regulations as proposed by the Rules and Regulations Committee. In response to the concerns raised in your memorandum of June 14, 1995, I offer the following information.

During debate, there were at least two senators that complained that current excuses do not necessarily indicate treatment at the Health Center, but only that the student had presented himself or herself and requested an excuse. Certainly both of the two examples you provide, however, include the word "treatment."

The Senate voted to restore one of the sentences that the Rules and Regulations Committee proposed for deletion with one modification. The sentence in question was modified as follows:

"If a student was treated at the Health Center for the illness or injury that occasioned the absence, the director of the Health Center or his/her representative will, on request of the student, confirm this fact."

In spite of the debate, I do not believe that this sentence asks for additional medical information.

The Rules and Regulations changes come from so many segments of the University that requiring an individual that is knowledgeable about each of the items might overflow the Senate meeting room. It would have been helpful, however, to have someone present at the meeting who could have explained laws relating to privacy and medical confidentiality.

Sincerely,

Pierce E. Cantrell
Speaker, 1995-96

pc: Dr. Ray M. Bowen, President, Texas A&M University
Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Bill Kibler, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Mr. Bill Helwig, Office of General Counsel
Dr. Brent Paterson, Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee
June 14, 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Ray M. Bowen
    President
    Texas A&M University
    Mail Stop 1246

THRU: Dr. J. Malon Southerland
    Vice President for Student Affairs
    Mail Stop 1256

THRU: Dr. Bill Kibler
    Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
    Mail Stop 1256

SUBJECT: Class Attendance and Class Excuses

The action taken on Monday, June 12, 1995, by the Faculty Senate regarding their recommended students' attendance policy, as reported on the front page of THE BATTALION on Tuesday, June 13, 1995, raises an important concern that I wish to bring to your attention.

As you know, medical records are confidential documents. Release of medically confidential information by a physician or a medical treatment facility, such as our student health center, without the explicit permission of the patient involved may be a violation of state, federal, and local law.

Attached are two examples of the kinds of class excuses that our A. P. Beutel Health Center currently gives to students when they have been treated here, and they request a class excuse. The information provided on these excuses lies within legal bounds for this purpose. If the members of the Faculty Senate were quoted accurately in THE BATTALION, their statements
that by their recommended new policy the student will be required to provide "proof of
treatment to validate an absence" baffles me. What additional "proof of treatment" are these
faculty members expecting? If they are asking for more explicit medical information such as
diagnosis and medicines administered, they may be unwittingly asking us to violate the laws
relating to privacy and medical confidentiality. If, on the other hand, they wish by their
proposal to transfer responsibility to the student for providing this detailed information as a
way of circumventing these laws, they are placing the student in an awkward position and are
recommending an institutional policy that, in my opinion, may be fraught with legal peril.

By telephone I have contacted Mr. Bill Helwig of the Office of General Counsel regarding this
issue. He shares my concern and would welcome the opportunity to research the matter.

Kenneth R. Dirks, M.D.
Director

Attachments

xc: Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Speaker, Faculty Senate
    Mr. Bill Helwig, Office of General Counsel
June 15, 1995

To whom it may concern:

Connie White, I.D. 456-47-5824, was seen in the Student Health Center and treated for an illness on June 13 and 14, 1995.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Dirks, M.D.
Director

KRD: pl