

RESOLUTION ON CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE  
AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY  
(#10-94/95-SA)

WHEREAS, The current *Faculty Handbook* policy regarding disruptive behavior in the classroom is out of compliance with current Title 5 requirements; and

WHEREAS, A faculty member may not permanently exclude a student from class without due process; and

WHEREAS, Legal interpretation of due process has disclosed that asking a student to permanently leave a class is an informal suspension (illegal); and

WHEREAS, Verbal warnings alone do not constitute due process according to legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, Faculty do not want to be put in a legally vulnerable position when involved in classroom management; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends approval of the attached amended 95-96 catalog copy description of Class Attendance & Disruptive Behavior; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that the amended catalog copy replace the current text in the *Faculty Handbook* (page 13, section 329) and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that all faculty be provided with a copy of this updated policy as soon as possible.

March 21, 1995

**DRAFT**  
**CLASS ATTENDANCE & DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

Students have the right to attend and participate in all classes for which they are officially enrolled. They may be denied only for the purpose of maintaining suitable circumstances for teaching and learning. Any student who has neglected the work of the course or is disruptive to the educational process may be excluded from a course.

**Attendance:** At Humboldt, regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Each instructor establishes regulations regarding attendance requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements regarding class work in those cases where the student's absence is because of participation in intercollegiate athletics, forensics, drama festivals, music tours, and the like.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Disruptive student behavior in the classroom is defined as behavior which interrupts, obstructs, or inhibits the teaching and learning processes. The faculty member determines what is disruptive and has a duty to terminate it. Disruptive behavior may take many forms. For example: persistent questioning, incoherent comments, verbal attacks, unrecognized speaking out, incessant arguing, intimidating shouting, ~~and inappropriate acting out, physical disruption, and threatening behavior. gestures.~~

Disruptive classroom behavior may, on the other hand, result from overzealous classroom participation, lack of social skills, or inappropriately expressed anger at the ~~faculty member or~~ course content. Sometimes there is a thin line between controlling the learning environment and permitting students' academic freedom, between intentional and unintentional disruption. Faculty have the responsibility to maintain a learning environment in which students are free to question and criticize constructively and appropriately. Faculty also have the authority and responsibility to establish rules, to maintain order, and to eject students from the course temporarily for violation of the rules or misconduct.

The faculty member shall give at least one verbal warning to a student to cease in-class disruptive behavior. ~~In cases of abusive behavior, this requirement may be waived.~~ In addition, if the in-class disruption does not cease, an attempt shall be made to resolve the problem in a conference between the faculty member and the student. If disruption occurs after these two

measures are taken, the instructor may file a complaint with the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs to initiate university disciplinary action which may result in the student's permanent exclusion from the course and other disciplinary sanctions. If necessary, public safety will escort the student from the class. Ordinarily if a student banned from a course has passing status, the student will be granted a grade of "W"-- withdrawal.

In cases where a student exhibits abusive behavior, is physically abusive or threatens physical abuse, a verbal warning from the faculty member is not necessary. Examples might include directed profanity, physical disruption of the classroom, or threatening behavior. Public safety may be requested to escort the student from the class and an interim suspension may be imposed by the president.

Individuals in attendance in a course in which they are not officially enrolled may be excluded from the course by the instructor.

PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WHEN REVIEWING THIS PROPOSED POLICY:

1. 1988 HSU Faculty Handbook re: Class Attendance, Section 329.
2. 1994-95 HSU Catalog, Section "Policies and Student Rights and Responsibilities," pp. 345-352.
3. Chancellor Executive Order 628, "Student Disciplinary Procedures."

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WHEREAS, A faculty member may not permanently boot a student out of class without due process; and

WHEREAS, Legal interpretation of due process has discerned that asking a student to permanently leave a class is an informal suspension (illegal); and

WHEREAS, Verbal warnings alone do not constitute due process according to legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, Faculty do not want to be put in a legally vulnerable position when involved in classroom management; therefore, be it

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(Over)

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The faculty member shall give at least one verbal warning to a student to cease in-class disruptive behavior. In addition, if the disruption does not cease, an attempt shall be made to resolve the problem in a conference between the faculty member and the student. If disruption occurs after these two measures are taken, the instructor may file a complaint with the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs to initiate university disciplinary action which may result in the student's permanent exclusion from the course and other disciplinary sanctions. If necessary, Public Safety will escort the student from the class. Ordinarily a student banned from a course will be granted a grade of "W" — withdrawal.