



Bill Number:	W-20-06	Sponsored By:	Senator Gillian Garton Senator Naomi Armstrong
Introduced On:	29 July 2020		
Voted On:	29 July 2020		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	24-0-1		

A BILL TO: Urge Grand Valley State University to Implement a Student Bereavement Policy and to Clearly State this Policy within the University Academic Policies and Regulations

Recognizing, that the Values Statement of Grand Valley State University states that Grand Valley “is committed to strengthening our living, learning, and working environment by recognizing and removing the barriers to full participation and providing a safe, inclusive, vibrant community for all”¹; and

Recognizing, that Grand Valley State University does not currently have a Bereavement Policy for students²; and

Recognizing, that many of our peer institutions, including Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Oakland University, the University of Michigan, and Western Michigan University have implemented Student Bereavement Policies³; and

Recognizing, that Grand Valley State University faculty and staff receive paid time off in the case of the death of a family member or other traumatic event⁴; and

Recognizing, that grief and trauma have a significant impact on college student academic performance, which could include a significant detriment to grade point average⁵; and

Whereas, Grand Valley State University recognizes that the long-term viability of the institution depends upon anticipating and meeting the needs of our changing student body⁶; and

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A6B4946-964C-4E87-1E31AC7FCA7936BD>

² <https://www.gvsu.edu/catalog/navigation/academic-policies-and-regulations.htm>

³ https://www.cmich.edu/office_president/general_counsel/Documents/p03040.pdf

<https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/GriefAbsence.aspx>

<https://www.mtu.edu/deanofstudents/academic-policies/attendance/>

<https://oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>

<https://lsa.umich.edu/advising/policies-procedures/class-attendance.html>

<https://wmich.edu/celcis/policies/attendance#Bereavement>

⁴ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=DEC28B10-D161-6414-311379AC7F2A80FB>

⁵ <https://www.purdue.edu/uns/html4ever/2006/060404.Seib.study.html>

⁶ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A6B4946-964C-4E87-1E31AC7FCA7936BD>

Whereas, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate is determined to represent all students and their diverse, ever-changing needs⁷;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, urges Grand Valley State University to implement a Student Bereavement Policy; and

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, urges Grand Valley State University to clearly state the Student Bereavement Policy within the University Academic Policies and Regulations.

⁷ [https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_constitution\(4\).pdf](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_constitution(4).pdf)