

1 Title: **Resolution to Encourage the Inclusion of the Death or Serious Illness of a Pet,**
2 **Companion, or Service Animals to be included in the UW Policy for Excused**
3 **Absences.**

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5 Sponsored by: Monica Cortés Viharo, GPSS Executive Senator (Drama), Sarah Loeffler,
6 GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance/
7 Jackson School of International Studies), Michelle Brault, Executive Senator (Molecular
8 & Cellular Biology), Giuliana Conti, Senator (Music), Alison Wattles (International
9 Studies).

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11 Written by: Christine Boles (UW Student, non-matriculated student from Jan 2016-Dec
12 2016), Crystal Boles (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine), Monica Cortés Viharo, GPSS
13 Executive Senator (Drama)

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15 Resolution Number: 06.16-17

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17 WHEREAS, the University of Washington bases their definition of family member in
18 policies for excused absences (illustrated under the Student Governance and Policies
19 (SGP), Chapter 112, Scholastic Regulations)¹; and

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21 WHEREAS, according to the Washington State Legislature (WAC 357-01-172)², the
22 definition of family members is as such: “parent, step-parent, sister, brother, parent-in-
23 law, spouse, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, minor/dependent child,
24 and child”; and

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26 WHEREAS, the UW policy recognizes death or serious illness in the family as an
27 acceptable cause of unavoidable absences; and

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29 WHEREAS, the state of Washington, including the University of Washington, does not
30 currently consider pet, companion, or service animals as family members; and

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32 WHEREAS, according to Joy Dias PhD, LFMT (Licensed Family and Marriage
33 Therapist) at the North American Veterinary Conference in 2003³, the definition of
34 family has evolved to not just include biological members, but to include individuals with
35 whom an emotional attachment exists, such as companion animals,

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37 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL
38 STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

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40 THAT, the University of Washington Student Governance and Policies (SGP), Scholastic
41 Regulations Chapter 112 be amended to read : “Examples of unavoidable cause include

¹ <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/ScholRegCH112.html>

² <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=357-01-172>

³ <https://habricentral.org/resources/4817/about>

42 death or serious illness in the immediate family, illness of the student, or death or serious
43 illness of a pet, companion, or service animal . . .”

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45 THAT, the new clause will require the student to present the same documentation as they
46 would for a serious injury/illness or death of human family member (euthanasia consent
47 form, veterinary bills, note from a veterinarian, a form of verification from UW academic
48 departments or academic centers in case pertaining to service animals, etc.); and

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50 THAT, this resolution will be forwarded to University of Washington President, Ana
51 Mari Cauce; University of Washington Provost, Gerald J. Baldasty; and the Board of
52 Regents of the University of Washington.

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54 *Presented to the GPSS for approval on May 31st, 2017*

55 *Approved on May 31st, 2017*