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

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

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

Resolution Number: 06.16-17

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, according to Joy Dias PhD, LFMT (Licensed Family and Marriage Therapist) at the North American Veterinary Conference in 2003\(^3\), the definition of family has evolved to not just include biological members, but to include individuals with whom an emotional attachment exists, such as companion animals,

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

THAT, the University of Washington Student Governance and Policies (SGP), Scholastic 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
death or serious illness in the immediate family, illness of the student, or death or serious illness of a pet, companion, or service animal . . .”

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

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

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