

To: the Institution-Wide Committee

From: the Student Affairs Committee

November 12, 2009

Last year we brought to the IWC a proposed revision of Policies and Procedures Memorandum Number 156. In response to your comments, we have engaged in further review and work on the proposed revision, and now re-submit it to the IWC for consideration. Much of the language remains the same as in the current policy, including the statement that “Employees’ minor-age children are not to be brought to the workplace.”

The Student Affairs Committee has considered incidents involving unsupervised children, studied comparable policies at other institutions, researched student access to the College’s Child Development Center and discussed possible connections between student parenting issues and their ability to remain enrolled. We also considered ways to clarify the policy and to make it more widely understood by students.

Our proposed revision foregrounds the fact that the policy is not meant to apply to young Community College Students. This is covered legally by a footnote saying that the policy “does not preclude . . . involvement of children in educational activities specific to a curriculum”, but we were looking for increased transparency and “user-friendly” language.

The current (1996) version of P & P NO. 156 says that students “are accountable for the provision of supervision when their children are on campus.” Influenced by reports of unattended children, and by language used by other colleges, the Student Affairs Committee has attempted to make the provision more explicit. The proposed revision says that, to “ensure the safety of children, those under the age of 18 must not be left unattended on college property.”

Perhaps the most significant change our proposed revision offers is one discussing the faculty’s role in regard to children in the classroom. The current (1996) version of P & P No. 156 says: “Faculty have the authority to exclude children and non-student minors from the classroom.” The proposed revision, instead of implying that faculty must actively “exclude” children from classrooms, states that children are not permitted in classrooms, but that “faculty members instructing a class may make exceptions in individual cases, provided that the learning process is not disrupted.”

We ask you, the Institution-Wide Committee, to consider, amend if necessary, and approve the proposed revision of College Policies and Procedures Memorandum No. 156 submitted now by the Student Affairs Committee.