

# **HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY FALL TERM TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN**

**RESOLUTION NO.** Res-203-006

**AUTHORED BY:** David Shea

**A RESOLUTION TO:** TO DEMAND THE REFORM OF THE CLASS RECORDING POLICY AS SET OUT BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE (DOS)

## **THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:**

WHEREAS, Harvard Law School students have a wide variety of on-campus, off-campus, curricular and extracurricular commitments and work themselves tirelessly; AND

WHEREAS, on-campus life and proximity to other students drastically increases the chances of contracting some form of illness during the school year; AND

WHEREAS, the current DOS recording policy only allows students to request a recording of class in one of three scenarios: 1. The birth of a child, 2. The death of an immediate family member, and 3. "Significant personal or medical emergency"; AND

WHEREAS, a student not fitting these criteria cannot currently secure a recording even with the professor's approval; AND

WHEREAS, currently the professors have no discretion in this regard to approve or deny such a request and full approval authority lies with DOS regardless of the subject-matter or sensitivity of the topic being discussed or in-class comments being made; AND

WHEREAS, many students have legitimate conflicts they may wish to be made known only to the professor of a class in which they have to miss or, in some cases, not at all or only vaguely; AND

WHEREAS, virtually all classrooms are setup to record; AND

WHEREAS, most illnesses are not treated by DOS as a "medical emergency"; AND

WHEREAS, notes are a poor stand-in for class discussions around complex topics; AND

WHEREAS, the ABA already has a mandatory attendance policy and professors may and do impose additional attendance requirements as they see fit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government demands DOS reform its Recording Policy and urges them to adopt a policy wherein a student must ONLY seek the course's professor's approval to initiate a request to IT to record a class. If the student's situation falls within the three situations set out as per the existing policy (see above), the professor MUST approve the request. However, if the professor deems any other stated reason for an absence to be legitimate they MAY approve such a recording but reserve the right to deny it, within their discretion (i.e. if the class discussion is highly sensitive or the absence is deemed illegitimate), if such reasoning is provided to the student.

**PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: 11/22/2019**

**VOTE TOTALS:**

12 YES  
1 NO  
3 ABSTAIN

