

## Toward Better Practices on Absence/Attendance Policies

- Currently the IU Health Center does not (and often cannot) verify a student's illness or provide "excuses," it simply verifies that the student *has visited*. Privacy laws also may limit what information can be provided.
- The IUHC believes the costs of this practice outweigh the benefits. It would like to restrict "verification of visit" (VOV) notes to certain, more-limited circumstances. (See Dr. Rupp's memo provided with the agenda.)
- The Student Affairs Committee supports the IUHC's proposal.
- IUSA leadership concurs. As well, many faculty appear to regard the current VOV forms as not valuable.
- If the IUHC changes its policy, faculty who currently require VOVs won't be able to do so in most cases going forward.

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- Assuming IUHC changes its policy, and recognizing that IUB is a diverse collection of disciplines where teaching happens in many different modes, can we nonetheless begin a conversation on how faculty can improve our absence/attendance policies?
  - Students express frustration that attendance/absence policies often are not communicated clearly on syllabi. Can we do better?
  - Is there any role for VPF AA (perhaps in the start-of-semester memo) in providing guidance on the above?
  - Should departments and schools seek to encourage more consistency, or at least clarity, in such policies?
  - When absences are anticipated or occur, how do we encourage more candid conversations between faculty and students?
  - Is there any role for campus-level policy making by the BFC?