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STUDENT CONDUCT AND WELFARE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SR-07-08-(11) 42 SCWC

It is recommended that the university ban the use of cell phones in all the classrooms during classes and exams. It is also recommended that students be allowed to set their cell phones to "vibrating" or "silent" mode and walk out of the classroom to answer the phone in the event of an emergency. It is further recommended that individual instructors be permitted to relax this policy in their classes if they feel appropriate to do so.

RATIONALE:

- 1. Cell phones disrupt classes. In particular, they disrupt instructors.
- 2. Cell phones can be used to cheat during exams (e.g. Text messaging).
- 3. This semester there has been an incident involving a student using a cell phone in a class. That incident has led to a confrontation between the instructor and the student. Apparently, the instructor did not have a cell phone policy on their syllabus.
- 4. If there is a university wide policy, then individual instructors do not have to include the policy in their syllabi.
- 5. If a particular instructor wants to relax this policy, he or she will have the right to do so.
- 6. Students will still be able answer the phone in an emergency situation by walking out of the classroom. This is especially important since the university is developing an "alert" system using cell phones in the event of an emergency.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE: Lawy Stubler	DATE: 12/13/2007
DISAPPROVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE:	DATE:
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:	
APPROVED:	DATE:
COMMENTS: See Attachment	

Attachment SR-07-08-(11) 42 SCWC

This recommendation is disapproved based upon the following:

- 1. It is unclear what implementation mechanisms would be utilized and how this policy would be enforced and what penalties would be imposed.
- 2. It seems that incorporating a statement about cell phones in the course syllabus would resolve this matter without necessitating a formal policy.