

Children in the Classroom

Background and Discussion

Take 2

Background

- This semester, concerns were raised about situations involving children in PhilaU classrooms.
- They were brought to the attention of the Executive Deans, Provost, Dean of Students, and administration.

Process

- A working group comprised of Executive and Academic Deans, Dean of Students, Provost's Office, VPA, and CFO.
- Benchmarking was completed.
- For discussion, a policy was drafted:
 - *"Children are not appropriate in the classroom."*
- Statement was presented to and discussed with:
 - Provost's Council
 - Student Experience Committee
- Faculty discussed during Faculty Voices at the Feb. Faculty Meeting.

Process - Take 2

- Reviewed Faculty Meeting notes
 - 20+ individual faculty commented
- Barbara Kimmelman and Beth SR worked with comments/suggestions for a revised policy statement
- Distributed to faculty members who commented at Faculty Meeting
 - Received 5 responses
- Held (3) Open Meetings to solicit further discussion and comment
 - Received 4 emails and 3 faculty attended.

Revised Final Policy

- The University teaching and learning environment is not an appropriate setting for children. Faculty and students should refrain from bringing their children to classrooms, studios, laboratories and other instructional settings.
- While this is a general University policy about instructional settings, individual Colleges or Schools may adopt more restrictive policies for certain settings, such as workshops, laboratories, and studios, for the protection of faculty, students, and their children as well as the University's facilities.
- It is understood that from time to time, unexpected circumstances may interrupt childcare arrangements. When such a situation occurs,
 - A student must contact the course instructor prior to the beginning of class to discuss potential alternate solutions;
 - A full-time faculty member must contact his/her Dean or designee to discuss the circumstances;
 - An adjunct faculty member must contact his/her MAO to discuss the circumstances.

Final policy will be incorporated in:

- Faculty Manual (2015)
- Adjunct Resource Guide (updated annually)
- Course Catalog (2015-16)
- Student Handbooks

Questions and Discussion