To: Members of the Faculty

From: Dean Jill Dolan

Date: September 15, 2016

Subject: Varsity-Athletic Competitions and Class Attendance Policy

Princeton has long been committed to maintaining a competitive varsity-athletics program as part of its broad conception of undergraduate education.

Our athletics department makes every reasonable effort to schedule competitions at times that do not conflict with our students’ academic commitments. In cases where those conflicts are unavoidable, our policy is not to penalize students for missed class time when they are attending or traveling to competitions.

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining two important components of the University’s long-standing policy. First, the University reserves the 4:30-7:30 p.m. time slot for all students to support their participation in extracurricular activities, including athletics. Second, we ask that faculty excuse student-athletes who have conflicts between regularly scheduled classes and varsity-athletic competitions or related travel.

Please note that as always, students are not permitted to miss class to attend practices.

The dean of the college and the director of athletics ask student-athletes to meet with their instructors as close to the beginning of the semester as possible to identify any class meetings they are likely to miss for competitions or related travel, and to discuss how they plan to cover course material.

When student-athletes are enrolled in your courses, we would be grateful if you would give them the opportunity to compensate for participation points missed for varsity competitions. For example, a student might review a classmate’s notes (if permitted), see you during your office hours, write a short essay on assigned readings, or complete an assignment that you consider fair and equivalent. In addition, the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning offers a number of educational technologies that can help mitigate the academic disruptions caused by missed classes (https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/digital-pedagogy/teaching-technologies).
When varsity-athletic competitions and related travel conflict with course requirements such as mandatory field trips or midterms, we ask you to make fair and appropriate accommodations.

**Please note that the rescheduling of final examinations is always handled by the Registrar.**

Certain athletic competitions fall outside of the scope of this memo, such as national team and Olympic competitions. We encourage instructors to make allowances in such cases, though the decision about how to handle conflicts remains the instructor’s prerogative. Instructors can consult with Dean Dov Grohsgal for further information or for logistical assistance. You can find additional suggestions on the Dean of the College [website](#). Please see the section entitled “Athletics and Class Attendance.”

We appreciate in advance your efforts and cooperation. Please contact Dean Dov Grohsgal at 609-258-9310 or by e-mail at dweinryb@princeton.edu with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for helping our students balance the rigor of their academic pursuits with the educational opportunities offered through our athletics programs. We truly appreciate your attention.

cc: Elizabeth Colagiuri, Deputy Dean of the College  
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Anthony Archbald, Executive Associate Director of Athletics  
Allison Rich, Senior Associate Director of Athletics  
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