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To go or not to go?

Recently I heard a lot of WVU students arguing about the new attendance policy. It is quite unusual to see such a discussion at this university. Everyone has something to say about it. It is very interesting to see how this attendance policy strikes directly to usually numb student body and leaves a very sensitive mark.

I don't know about any surveys that had been done on what makes students come to Morgantown. From my own experience, I know that there is a lot of students, especially out of state, who come here to have fun and still get a college degree. This is a group of people who object this attendance policy the most. It is clearly because they have



different priorities. They prefer to stay in bed after a rough night rather than to get up in the morning and to go to school. I have nothing against them. I may not agree with them, but I accept that it is their choice and they have a right to do so. There is no policy in the world that would force a person to get up and go to school when they don't want to. That is why we shouldn't feel bad for them. It is their decision that they make every morning.



After eliminating those students we still remain with a lot of students at WVU. These remaining students are very good, average or non-traditional but they all have in common that they came to school for education. These groups are not against policy itself, they just want to make sure that it will not stand in their way of achieving fair grades. Good students usually go to class anyway and I don't think that this is an issue for them. The next group consists of average students. I believe that majority of these students is looking for a way of how to improve their grades; therefore, this attendance policy is only going to be to their benefit. This can only be good for them as it gives them more motivation to come to class. The last group that I mentioned is the non-traditional students.

This is slightly more complicated as they usually are involved in other activities besides university. Therefore, sometimes they might two or more of these activities going on at the same time. This causes conflict of interests for them and sometimes school is the activity that has to be pushed aside. Especially, when one knows that one can go see professor before the next class and get all the notes from last class from a classmate. Nina

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Forest is a great example of a non-traditional student who does everything is possible to succeed in school. Nina explains her situation: "You see, at my age, many responsibilities and demands pull on my schedule; and I no longer have the liberty to focus most of my energy on only one facet of my life while being "taken care of". Thus, I have found that I had to miss class due to illness--mine, my child's, or my babysitter's--or waiting for opportunities to make money, important meetings in local projects, and speaking at conferences out of state regarding issues pertinent to my life and my community's."

These are students about whom WVU needs to think of the most before they put new attendance policy in use, because they are the ones who miss classes for valid reason and it shouldn't have a big impact on their grade.

This attendance policy is not a bad idea and it only depends on students to make the right decisions. Otherwise, they must learn to accept consequences for their decisions. The only downside of this policy is that it needs to pay more attention to students who will be pushed by this policy into a corner as they don't always have a luxurious choice between to go or not to go to school.