

## Paying to sleep in: Students choosing sleep over class attendance

Tammy Tripp  
The Pendulum

The scenario is a familiar one. The alarm goes off, the bed is warm and you wonder for the third morning in a row if you really need to go to class. According to most departmental attendance policies, the answer is yes.

For most departments, after a set amount of absences, students are penalized by a mark down in grades. But not all students think an attendance policy is appropriate in college.

"There's no reason for an attendance policy in college," one student said. "If I want to fail then that's my choice and I'm paying for that choice. If people don't show up, you just have a small group experience."

Findings on Elon's campus say that there is indeed a strong relationship between attendance and success or failure in the classroom. Those who do not go to class tend to get lower grades.

"I think your grades reflect how often you go to class," sophomore J.P. Kully said. "But you shouldn't be double penalized."

Class attendance policy is a familiar argument. Those against the idea think that if a college stu-

dent is mature enough to go to college, they should be mature enough to go to class if they so choose.

Unfortunately it is not this

simple—especially on a campus the size of Elon's. Classes can be small with under 10 people. Those who are in favor of attendance policies

say that if several students do not show up, the class learning experience is lost.

"I think the attendance policy

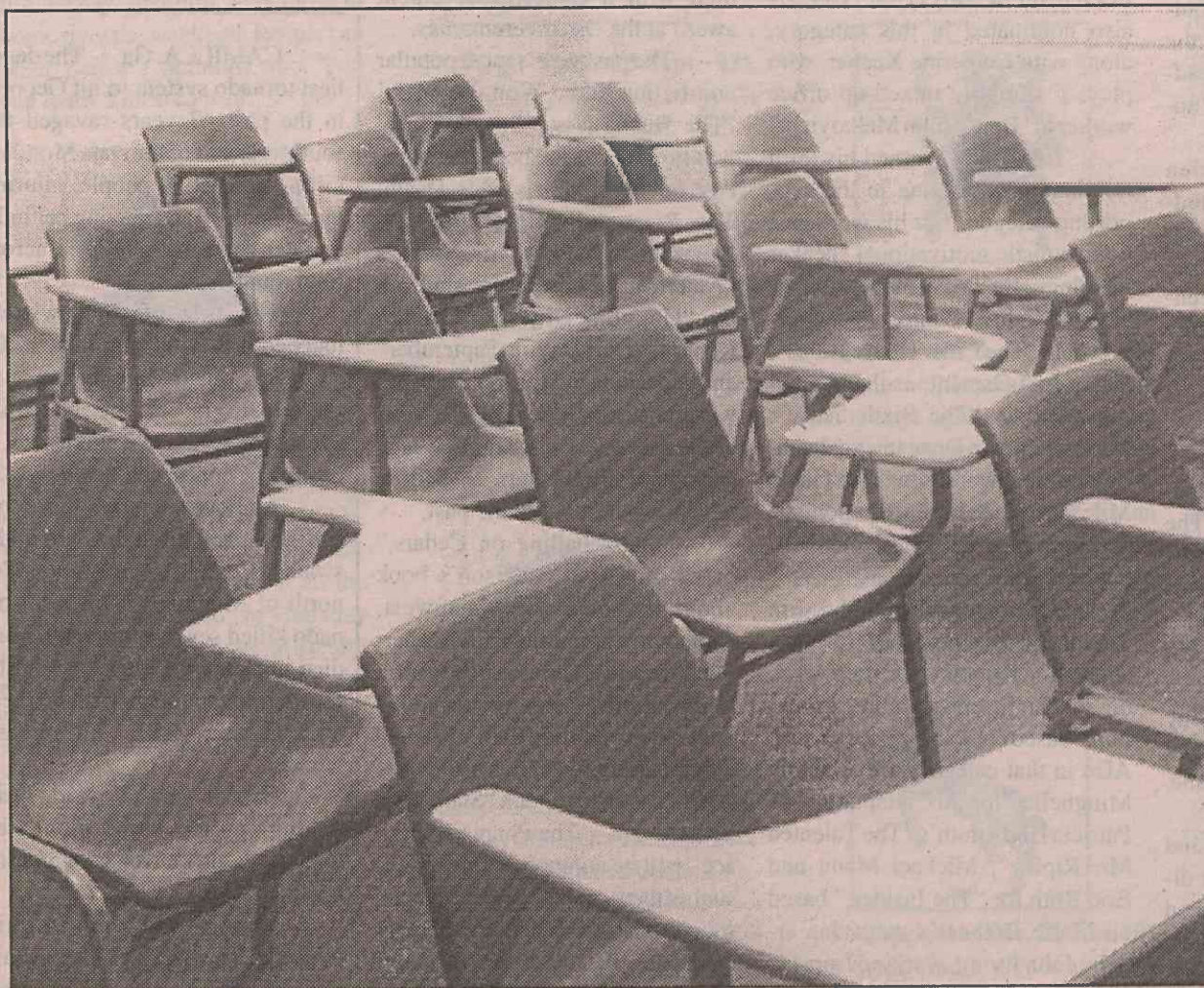
is fair," sophomore Claire Evans said. "If you're serious about what you're going to school for, you want to be there. The adult thing to do would be to come to class."

Many say that whether or not a student should be forced to go to class depends on both the class and the student.

This is an issue professors are divided on as well. English professor Robert Blake says he expects his students to be mature enough to come to class on their own. However, he also says that he feels compulsory attendance for freshmen and sophomores are far more important than for juniors or seniors.

Most Elon professors have some sort of policy. Communications professor Tom Nelson strictly enforces the JCM department's policy of no more than three absences per semester.

"The department mandates it, so I mandate it," he said. "It's a private school and parents are paying for a little extra kick in the pants. This is part of that kick."



## Students push to be given seats on Va. public college's boards

Alice Warchol  
Knight-Ridder Tribune

A group of student leaders from Virginia public colleges is pushing legislation that would give students the right to sit on university governing boards.

Three bills, all containing similar language, would amend Virginia's code to require state universities to appoint one or more students to their boards of visitors if they don't already have student representation.

The students couldn't vote, but they would be able to participate in most university discussions.

"If a student can sit on a student conduct hearing, why couldn't they serve on a board of visitors?" asked Tommy R. Smigiel, student body president at Old Dominion University.

Smigiel and 14 students from four universities visited Richmond last week to find a sponsor for their legislation.

They found support in the Senate and the House.

Since it's the student and his parent that are providing all the funding, it seems reasonable that

they would have some kind of representation on the board of visitors," said Del. Frank W. Wagner, R-Virginia Beach, author of one of the bills.

Other sponsors are from Northern and western Virginia.

Some universities — James Madison, George Mason, University of Virginia and Mary Washington — already have student board members. The legislation, if passed, would extend to all state colleges.

I think it's a good idea because the university is about students and not the politics that have come into it," said Levi E. Willis, student government president at Norfolk State University.

The real reason for this university is students," the junior said. "We need a voice in every place possible."

At one time, ODU's board Rector Edward L. Hamm Jr. thought that way, too.

He proposed having faculty members and students on the Board of Visitors three years ago, but became convinced that "it possibly would create more problems than it would cure."

One reason had to do with the

nature of the relationship of the president to students.

"There are a lot of sensitive issues and confidential issues that public boards handle such as presidential compensation and evaluation of the president," Hamm said.

"It is not always wise to have people for whom the president is responsible for evaluating the president or being party to those sensitive discussions."

The bills would allow any board to exclude student represen-

tatives from "discussions of faculty grievances, faculty or staff disciplinary matter or salaries."

But they do not specify if university presidents are considered part of the faculty.

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