August 18, 2016

Dear Faculty, Part-time Instructors, Adjuncts, and TA’s,

Faculty members have inquired whether Syracuse University has a position regarding the class absence of students who are required to travel as part of their obligations to intercollegiate athletics. As you may know, Syracuse University participates in NCAA Division I sports competitions that can be scheduled by Syracuse University, the Atlantic Coast Conference or the NCAA for its championship events. The Athletic Department works to minimize missed class time; however, by virtue of the fact that some competition schedules are prepared by the ACC and NCAA, missed class time does occur. While our student-athletes are obligated to meet both their academic and athletic commitments, there are instances when required travel creates conflicts with class schedules and other academic responsibilities. I request that you not penalize these students for their required absences. In addition, I request that you accommodate, within an appropriate time frame, their need to fulfill their academic assignments.

As a Syracuse University instructor you should expect any student-athlete in your class who is required to travel to bring you a letter from the Student-Athlete Development office prior to any travel commitments. This letter will state that student “X” is a member of team “Y,” and it will provide a specific travel schedule. This will give you an opportunity to talk with the student about how he or she might deal with the circumstances surrounding his or her required absence.

Sincerely,



Michele Wheatly

Vice Chancellor and Provost

cc: Kent Syverud, Chancellor and President

Rick Burton, Faculty Athletics Representative

Jeffrey Stanton, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs

John Wildhack, Athletic Director

Herman Frazier, Senior Deputy Director of Athletics

Kimberly Keenan-Kirkpatrick, Deputy Director of Athletics

Jamie Mullin, Associate Director of Athletics

Tommy Powell, Assistant Provost, Student Athletics and Academic Services

Mark Wheeler, Director of Compliance

Dan French, General Counsel

Gabe Nugent, Deputy General Counsel