

From: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO [ADELACOV@mailbox.sc.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 11:51 PM
To: STUDENT
Subject: Course absence policy

Student,

Today was the fifth class that you have missed this semester. According to the syllabus: "Absences totaling 5 classes during the semester will result in an F for the course."

I have to abide by this policy unless you can bring me a doctor's note for the day that you missed class.

Prof. D.L.C.

From: STUDENT
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 8:33 AM
To: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO
Subject: RE: Course absence policy

I should have emailed you this note before class but must've forgotten. Attached is the doctor's note. It says that I will be out all this week but I hope to be in class tomorrow. Please respond to this email so I know you have received it. I am not looking to fail this course.

From: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO [ADELACOV@mailbox.sc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 11:39 AM
To: STUDENT
Cc: COBB, CHARLES
Subject: RE: Course absence policy

Student,

Your doctor's note raises more questions than it answers.

1. It is not written on a physician's stationary.
2. There is no phone number on it.
3. The illness that requires "light duty" is not specific.
4. Attending class does not require "light duty"
5. The physician's address listed on the note has a phone number listed on the Internet as (403) _____, which has been disconnected.
6. The physician's office is in Atlanta and you reside in Columbia.
7. Is this physician a family member?

I have consulted with the Anthropology Department chair on this matter and have concluded that under this situation, I cannot accept the note as valid unless it's on official physician's stationary and you explain the discrepancies in the note.

Prof. D.L.C.

From: STUDENT
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 12:04 PM
To: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO
Subject: RE: Course absence policy

I can also go by the schools health center and take a strep test and bring that note as proof if that is easier?

DE LA COVA, ANTONIO

Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 2:59 PM

Student:

Could you please tell me who wrote the doctor's note, dated November 13, 2011, that you gave me yesterday?

Prof. de la Cova

STUDENT

Inbox: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 12:31 AM

The office of Dr. _____. He is my endocrinologist. Is there another issue?

From: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO

Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 2:18 PM

To: STUDENT

Cc: COBB, CHARLES; NESMITH, CHRIS; LICORISH, J. LICORISH;Dr____@aol.com

Subject: RE: Doctor's note

Student,

After receiving the medical excuse note that you gave me last Monday, signed by Dr. _____, dated November 13, 2011, I noticed that the stationary heading of "Dr. _____ M.D." on it seemed apocryphal, just like the previous note that you emailed me from the same physician on November 1. I refused to accept the first note that you submitted because it was not on official stationary.

Since the manuscript of the second note seemed spurious, I compared it to how you wrote your name on the first two exams this semester. I noticed that there are attempts to disguise the writing by switching the form of the letters, especially appearing sometimes as E and other times as e. However, the way that you wrote your name on both exams and the way that it appears on the doctor's note, has identical "Lo" letters in your name. The bottom of the L curves upward and runs into the o in all three comparisons. Likewise, other letters of your name, especially the n and the t are identical in all documents, in spite of failed efforts to sometimes disguise them. I showed this documentation to two other Anthropology professors, who agreed with me that the physician's note that you gave me is a forgery.

I then emailed you on Nov. 22: "Could you please tell me who wrote the doctor's note, dated November 13, 2011, that you gave me yesterday?" Your response was: "The office of Dr. _____. He is my endocrinologist. Is there another issue?"

In consequence, I called the office of Dr. ____ today at (404) _____ and spoke with Medical Assistant _____. I asked her to verify if "the office of Dr. _____" had written the dubious note that you gave me. She checked the office records and affirmed: "Doctor _____ has not seen this patient since December 13, 2010, and did not write this letter." Ms. _____ has asked me to send the physician your counterfeit notes and stated that "Doctor _____ is not happy about this." You could be subjected to criminal prosecution for twice forging a physician's signature and attempting to pass it off as legitimate.

You tried to use this phony note as a medical excuse for the fifth day of class that you missed this semester in my Anthropology E331 course. The course syllabus clearly indicates: "Absences totaling 5 classes during the semester will result in an F for the course." As a result, you will be

receiving an F grade for this course.

On September 30 you emailed me requesting a recommendation for the study abroad program in Australia. I replied the same day: "I am not qualified to recommend you because you have been my student for only a month, which is the amount of time that I have been teaching at USC. I suggest that you get recommendations from professors you studied under last year and know you better." In consequence of your academic dishonesty, I will be informing the study abroad program that you are an untrustworthy and deceitful student.

I am also copying this email with the attached documentation to the chairs of the Anthropology Department and the USC Extended University; the Assistant Director of Student Conduct, Julia Licorish; and Dr. _____ in Atlanta.

Prof. de la Cova

DE LA COVA, ANTONIO

To: studyabroad@australearn.org

Attachments: STUDENT_forgery.pdf (362 KB)

Sent Items: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 2:42 PM

This is to notify you that student _____, at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, who applied for your program this Fall, is an untrustworthy and deceitful student who could be liable for criminal prosecution for recently forging the signature of a physician.

I am forwarding and attaching the pertinent documents.

Prof. A. de la Cova

Andrea Lipkin [ALipkin@australearn.org] Actions

To: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO

Inbox: Tuesday, November 29, 2011 1:36 PM

Dear Prof. de la Cova,

I appreciate you letting our office know. _____ cancelled her study abroad application with us a few weeks ago. I will keep this information on file though should she re-apply.

Thank you again for your follow-up.

Kind regards,

Andrea E. Lipkin, M.S.

Senior Coordinator, Outreach and Student Services

AustraLearn – Study in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific

An Educational Program of GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

STUDENT

To: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO

Inbox: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 4:51 PM

I understand your need to make those necessary communications about this. I clearly didn't want to fail the course and have been under a lot of stress. That is not an excuse and I will accept these consequences. There are consequences for my actions as I realize they were immature and a lie. I have remorse however and apologize for all the inconvenience that I have brought you.

Although I missed 5 classes, I did enjoy the class very much. I will stop by the judicial office to discuss this with them. I apologize once again.
