In November 2018, a student published an article in Student Life Newspaper pushing WashU administrators to change the policy on transcript notation for students taking a leave of absence.

SU Senate saw the impact this problem had on WashU students, so the SU Senate Health and Wellness Committee started discussions with the academic deans of each school and the Office of the Registrar. Together, we saw the benefit of changing the transcript notation for students’ wellbeing and created a new transcript notation for students taking a medical leave of absence.
Students who take a medical leave within the add/drop period at the start of the semester will have their courses dropped from their record and their official transcript (which is true for any student dropping courses within the add/drop period).

Students who take a medical leave after the add/drop period will have “WLA” noted for each course instead of “W”.

- This will happen automatically upon approval by Habif Health & Wellness Center.
- The student taking a medical leave does not have to do anything to make it happen.

All four-year advisors as well as the Habif Health & Wellness Center have been notified of the change and should communicate it with their students.

Students considering a medical leave should be discussing it with their four-year advisors and/or the Habif Health & Wellness Center.

We hope this SU Senate project will not only help increase conversations surrounding students’ mental health on campus, but also give a concrete example of how SU Senate listened to your concerns and worked with administrators to improve our campus.

If you ever have any suggestions on how we can continue to improve our campus and the student experience, feel free to contact us any day, any time.

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