

November 25, 1942

Mr. A. J. Mix
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Mix,

The increased demands on this department necessitated by the requirement that students missing physical conditioning must present a doctors excuse lead us to offer this suggestion.

Many of these cases are of very minor illnesses or injuries that really do not require a physician's attention but make it inconvenient for the student to participate in exercise. During the first 24 days of November we issued 335 statements of excuse from physical conditioning and discussed with an additional 30 students physical complaints which did not warrant excuse. The issuing of excuses is not a simple clerical procedure. It requires, in many instances, a rather complete examination of the patient before the request for excuse can either be confirmed or disproved. To relieve this situation, would it not be possible to institute some sort of an honor system for requesting excuse from physical conditioning classes on the basis that this training is supposed to be for the benefit of the individual. I suggest a form something like this:

"Recognizing that the physical conditioning course has been instituted for my benefit and to help in the war effort, I request excuse from class on _____ (date) because of the following reason which did not require medical attention.

Signed _____"

Our experience is that any student requiring medical attention for illness or injury will, as he has done in the past, report to the Health Service. Use of this volunteer type of excuse would eliminate the necessity of the student putting the responsibility for excuse from class on a physician's diagnosis rather than on his own desire to escape, what at the moment appears to him to be an irksome duty.

Sincerely,

Ralph I. Canuteson, M.D.
Director, Health Service

RIC:k
cc to Dr. F. C. Allen
to Dr. Raymond Nichols