




OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JAMES R. ROACH, PH.D

To: Vijay Nair
Senate President

From: James R. Roach 

Date: June 10, 2004

Subject: Senate Resolution R-04-03-03

I am in receipt of university senate resolution R-04-03-03 regarding the presence of children and pets on campus. Please be advised that I am not approving this resolution.

It is my conviction that it is not appropriate for employees to bring children or pets regularly to their place of employment. First and foremost, there are personal hazards associated with this practice. The presence of children or pets in a classroom or an office can be a serious liability for the university and its employees. Children in the classroom or in the work place can certainly be a distraction to other members of the university community who are carrying out their professional responsibilities. In 1997 the WCSU Child Care Center was established on the Midtown campus to assist parents employed at WestConn and WestConn students who have children who could benefit from the Center's activities.

Animals can raise significant public health concerns for individuals with asthma, allergies or compromised immune systems. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention states, "animals or animal products such as dander, hair, scales, fur, saliva and body wastes contain powerful allergens that can cause both respiratory and skin disorders." As a facility open to the general public, it is my responsibility to consider these consequences and therefore not allow pets to be brought regularly into the buildings on campus.

It is not my intention to ban children from visiting the campus in appropriate situations. As a university we want to encourage children to visit the library and the theater and to attend athletic events and other university activities. There are situations when a child's presence is appropriate. There are also circumstances when a child's presence is not appropriate and may interfere with employee or student performance. These are important considerations that need to inform university policy.

It is for the reasons listed above that I am not approving this resolution.