# Reason for Absence: OBS 320 semester test

To whom it may concern,

I, Luke Jesse Voigt, was unable to attend the OBS 320 semester test on Monday 4 September 2017 for the following reason:

Monday 4 September was the due date for deliverables 5, 6, and 7 of the INF370 project, the final-year project of my degree in Informatics. Deliverable 5, particularly, is strenuous due to the tremendous workload and the limited time-frame for completion. The group I am working in depends highly upon one another and as a result, although I see myself as an equal, I also feel an inordinate amount of pressure to perform at an extremely high standard. In the week leading up to the OBS 320 semester test I slept less than two hours each night, if at all, and on the morning of the test I had not slept for 36 hours in an effort to produce the highest standard of work possible. I then attended my work as a tutor for the INF164 module for six hours, towards the end of which I passed out and my colleagues were unable to wake me. Once my colleagues were able to wake me I went to the OBS help desk in an attempt to contact Dr Maritz, my lecturer. I was informed that she was not available and that I should perhaps consider seeking medical advice as I did not appear to be fully functional. At this point I made the decision to return home in the interest of my own health and safety to avoid passing out again without the presence of my colleagues to assist me, or whilst driving home after the test.

In the week after the test I once again attempted to contact Dr Maritz, and only then discovered that she was away and that I should instead contact Ms Rebaona Letsholo. Unfortunately, Ms Letsholo was unable to meet with me, but thankfully advised me via email on how I should proceed.

I have since consulted with Dr Lizette Weilbach, the course co-ordinator of the INF370 project as she is familiar with the scope of the project and the pressure I faced to perform during this deliverable. Dr Weilbach can be contacted at: lizette.weilbach@up.ac.za.

I have also consulted with Prof. H. Gelderblom, who was present during the beginning of the session in which I eventually passed out and was witness to my exhaustive state. Prof Gelderblom can be contacted at: helene.gelderblom@up.ac.za.

I understand that I should not have made such a decision without consultation with the Department or a Medical Professional, but I do not believe I was thinking clearly at the time. I also understand that under normal circumstances I would not qualify for the sick test, but I ask you to please reconsider, if it is in any way possible.

Kind regards,

Luke Jesse Voigt

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