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Re: James (Sizemore) Smith

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of my son, James (Sizemore) Smith so that he may continue to participate in Sheldon track. Due to a no pass in his calculus class winter term, he is unable to compete.

James has had a difficult time in calculus. His first term was fairly arduous. He wanted to drop the class initially, but his father and I wouldn't allow it as we felt he was quitting too soon and the class would be important as he prepared to go to college. He managed to pull a C that term, but not without considerable stress and difficulty. We obtained a tutor for him and he met with the tutor twice a week. We had given him permission to drop the class winter term; however, he made the decision to stay in as he needed to be in four classes to compete in Track (he only needed an English and History class to complete his graduation requirements). He had hoped that he would do better. James continued working with his tutor, but just had a more difficult time and did not test well.

James' cousin passed away mid-January. This cousin was more like a big brother to James and in his coping with grief, we saw a lot more fatigue, irritability and inability to concentrate, which just added to the stress and difficulty of the calculus class, and in his other classes as well.

My son is a dedicated student and has been a two-sport athlete all through high school. The value of participating in a sport is huge for him. I believe he gave as much effort as he could to the calculus class and that our not letting him drop the class initially may have set him up for failure. He requested a no pass on the class so that it would not affect his GPA as he is applying for college scholarships and will attend OSU in the fall.

James is enrolled in four classes for spring and will pass all courses. I ask that you waive the grade requirement on winter term and allow James to participate and compete in his senior track season.

Thank you for your consideration.

Theresa Sizemore