To insure the highest performance and rehearsal standards and most efficient running of the department, the following policies and procedures apply:

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Punctuality and attendance at all services are expected standards of behavior. Unanticipated absence and lateness adversely affect the quality of our work, are considered unprofessional, and cannot be tolerated. Services include rehearsals, coaching sessions, all classes including Master Class, Professional Class, Movement, Acting, and any special event scheduled during regular opera meeting times. Services also include rehearsals, costume fittings, and special classes in preparation for outside the regular weekly schedule.

**Excused Absence**

Request for absence from any service must be made prior to committing oneself to potentially conflicting plans or engagements. The opera faculty will review the merits and possibility of any requested release. To ensure timely evaluation, and in consideration of production and master schedules, a professional release form must be filled out as soon as possible, and absolutely no later than two weeks prior to the date in question. (This policy also extends to early exits or late returns around Boston University holidays.) You may not assume that the request has been approved until the opera faculty has reviewed it, and you have received official opera faculty notification.

**Illness or unavoidable lateness**

A singer who is ill, or unavoidably late, must notify the department at (617) 353-5201 and Oshin Gregorian at oshingre@bu.edu or (617) 353-4727 as soon as possible prior to the service in which he or she is scheduled. Except under extraordinary circumstances, an absence will be considered unexcused if timely notification is not provided. On return from an unexpected, unavoidable absence you must submit an absence request form for faculty review.

**Preparedness**

Singers are expected to attend and participate with professional focus in all classes, be prepared musically for coachings and rehearsals, and have music memorized by the announced dates.

**Opera Workshop and Opera Theater Grades, Opera Institute Professional Review**

Preparedness, performance, class participation, improvement, and attendance are considered in determining grades. In regard to attendance, one unexcused absence is allowed, * the next will result in a lowering of one grade point, and two unexcused absences will result in failure. For Opera Institute, the above criteria will also be used to determine continuation of stipend, and in Opera Institute professional review as outlined in the Mission Statement. This policy is consistent with all CFA musical organizations, and is supported by the Voice Faculty and the Administration of the School.

*Out of respect for colleagues and faculty, advance personal notification is expected