



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

University Council

February 17, 2020

Mark Farmer, Chair of the Educational Affairs Committee
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Jean Williams-Woodward
Arts and Sciences – Samantha Joye
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Engineering – Sudhagar Mani
Environment and Design – Ronald Sawhill
(also representing Public Health and Social Work)
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Forestry and Natural Resources – Puneet Dwivedi
(also representing Ecology)
Journalism and Mass Communication – Shira Chess
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(also representing Pharmacy and Law)
Provost's Representative – Rahul Shrivastav
Undergraduate Student Representative – Matthew McDaniel
Graduate/Professional Student Representative – Jordan Henley

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to revise Policy 4.06-2, Religious Holidays Attendance Policy, will be an agenda item for the February 24, 2020, full Educational Affairs Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Mark Farmer, Chair
Educational Affairs Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

Policy 4.06-2, Religious Holidays Attendance Policy

<https://provost.uga.edu/policies/academic-affairs-policy-manual/4-06-class-attendance/#p-4-06-2>

Rationale for Revision:

The edits to Policy 4.06-2, Religious Holidays, Attendance Policy, concern modifying the verbiage on the creation of the academic calendar in order to reflect the current practice implemented by the Board of Regents in 2017.

Current Policy with Proposed Revision:

Policy 4.06-2, Religious Holidays Attendance Policy

University System policy prohibits the institution from scheduling registration periods or the first day of class on a religious holiday.

In addition, the university asks faculty members for understanding of recognized religious holidays. For example, the university asks faculty members for understanding of Jewish students missing classes and other academic commitments on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and to allow students in this situation to make up the work that is missed **or, at the instructor's discretion, be given an alternative assignment in lieu of the work missed. Such assignments may be given or completed prior to the date of absence.**

Similarly, faculty members should also be cognizant of other major religious holidays, including but not limited to Diwali (Hindu), Eid al Adha (Islam), Eid al Fitr (Islam), Good Friday (Christian) and Passover (Jewish). Please consult a resource such as <http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/> for a more comprehensive list of religious observances as well as for specific dates of each holiday.

Implementation

~~The calendar of the university is recommended by the Registrar to the Educational Affairs Committee and must be approved by the University Council.~~ **The academic calendar is set by the President or his or her designee.** It is the responsibility of those constructing the calendar to avoid scheduling registration periods or the first day of class on religious holidays.

Approval of such absences will be granted only if the instructor receives written notice from the student at least one week in advance of the religious holiday. It is the responsibility of the instructor and student to determine the conditions under which work will be made up when a student misses class or other academic obligations because of a religious holiday. The Vice President for Student Affairs and the Vice President for Instruction will remind the faculty each year near the beginning of the fall term of university policy in this area.

Revised Policy:

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