University Council

August 21, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2020-2021
John Maerz, Chair
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Nicholas Fuhrman
Arts and Sciences – Jonathan Evans (Arts)
Roderick Mauricio (Sciences)
Business – Jim Carson
Ecology – Amanda Rugenski
Education – Mardi Schmeichel
Engineering – E.W. Tollner
Environment and Design – Ashley Steffens
Family and Consumer Sciences – Patricia Hunt-Hurst
Forestry and Natural Resources – Joseph Dahlen
Journalism and Mass Communication – Dodie Cantrell-Bickley
Law – Randy Beck
Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon
Public and International Affairs – Jeffrey Berejikian
Public Health – Britanni Harmon
Social Work – Harold Briggs
Veterinary Medicine – Susan Sanchez
Graduate School – Wendy Ruona
Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu
Undergraduate Student Representative – TBD
Graduate Student Representative – Gerena Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to revise Policy 4.06-2, Religious Holidays Attendance Policy, will be an agenda item for the August 28, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting. This proposal was approved by the Educational Affairs Committee on February 24, 2020.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
John Maerz, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav
February 17, 2020

Mark Farmer, Chair of the Educational Affairs Committee
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Jean Williams-Woodward
Arts and Sciences – Samantha Joye
      Jean Martin-Williams
Business – Santanu Chatterjee
      Annette Poulsen
Education – Laura Bierema
Engineering – Sudhagar Mani
Environment and Design – Ronald Sawhill
      (also representing Public Health and Social Work)
Family and Consumer Sciences – Denise Lewis
Forestry and Natural Resources – Puneet Dwivedi
      (also representing Ecology)
Journalism and Mass Communication – Shira Chess
Public and International Affairs – Teena Wilhelm
Veterinary Medicine – Susan Williams
      (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 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:

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 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 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.