



Item: AS: A-3

## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Thursday, April 19, 2012

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ADOPT NEW REGULATION 2.007, RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

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### PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend approval by the Board of Trustees of a new regulation addressing religious observances for students.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FAU Regulation 2.007 is a new regulation which incorporates and enhances current University practices on accommodating religious observances for University students. The University has had a University policy on this subject for many years; however, the Board of Governors now requires that the matter be addressed by a BOT regulation. The regulation provides procedures for requesting accommodations for student religious observances, practices, and belief and for seeking redress when appropriate.

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

The regulation will become effective immediately upon Board of Trustees approval.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

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**Supporting Documentation:**

**Proposed Regulation 2.007**

**Presented by:**

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# Florida Atlantic University

## **Regulation 2.007 Religious Observances**

(1) The University recognizes and values students' rights to observe and practice their religious beliefs. This regulation provides a procedure in which students may seek reasonable accommodation of their religious observances, practices, and beliefs in regard to admission, class attendance, the scheduling of examinations, major class events, major University activities, and work assignments.

(2) The University will reasonably accommodate a student's religious observances, practices, and beliefs as they pertain to the following:

- a. Admissions: The University will not deny admission to any student because of the religious observance, practice, or belief of the student.
- b. Class Attendance: Any student, upon notifying his or her instructor, will be excused from class or other scheduled academic or educational activity to observe a religious holy day of his or her personal faith. Such notification shall be made no later than the end of the second week of the applicable academic term. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic or educational activity because of religious observances, practices or beliefs. Students should review course requirements and meeting days and times to avoid foreseeable conflicts, as excessive absences in a given term may prevent a student from successfully completing the academic requirements of a course.
- c. Work Assignments: Students who are excused from class or a specific work assignment or other academic or educational activity for the purpose of observing a religious holy day will be responsible for the material covered in their absence, but shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up any missed work. Missed work shall be made up in accordance with a timetable set by the student's instructor or as prescribed by the instructor at the beginning of the academic term.
- d. Examinations, Major Class Events, Major University Activities: The University, by and through itself and its instructors, shall use reasonable efforts not to schedule major examination, major class events, or major University activities on a recognized religious holy day. A recognized religious holy day is a significant day of religious observance as recognized by the highest governing body of that particular religious faith. Evidence of such recognition shall be provided by the student unless the holy day has been previously recognized by the University on its University Calendar as a day of observance in which the University is closed in observance of the holiday.

(3) Any student who believes that he or she has been unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to his or her religious belief or practices may seek redress of the decision by filing a complaint for failure to provide a religious accommodation with the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. Any such complaint will be processed and investigated in accordance with the University's established procedure regarding alleged discrimination and harassment.

*Specific Authority: Article IX of the Florida Constitution, 1006.53, F.S., Board of Governors Regulation 6.0115. History–New \_\_\_-\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.*