

Item: **AS-A5**

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 2.007,
RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend approval of amendments to Regulation 2.007.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University is seeking to amend Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances. The proposed changes are summarized as follows:

1. Updates and simplifies the description of how the university will accommodate a student's religious observances, practices and beliefs as they pertain to admissions, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.
2. Updates the procedure for students who desire to observe a religious practice or belief to notify the instructor in writing.
3. Updates the name of Office of Equal Opportunity Programs to its correct and current name of Office of Civil Rights and Title IX.
4. Adds language to include the university's commitment to provide reasonable accommodation and to make the faculty and students aware of such commitment by providing an interfaith calendar prior to the start of each academic term.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

The proposed amended regulation will be implemented and effective upon adoption by the Board of Trustees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to this proposed board action.

Supporting Documentation: Proposed Regulation Amendments 2.007, Religious Observances

Presented By: Joseph Van de Bogart
VP of Legal Affairs & General Counsel
Phone: 561-297-3007; Email: jvandebogart@fau.edu

Florida Atlantic University

Regulation 2.007

Religious Observances

(1) The University recognizes and values students' rights to observe and practice their religious beliefs. The University will reasonably accommodate a student's religious observances, practices, and beliefs as they pertain to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.

(2) If a student desires to observe a religious practice or belief, the student must provide written notice to the instructor to be excused from class for such purposes no later than the second week of the applicable academic term. ~~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.~~

(3) Students who are absent because of religious observances, practices, or beliefs and who have complied with the notification requirement will not be penalized. Students are responsible for any material covered or tested during an excused absence but shall be given a reasonable amount of time to complete assignments or examinations missed during the excused absence.

~~(1) —~~

~~(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.~~

(4) 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 Civil Rights and Title IX Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. Any such complaint will be processed and investigated in accordance with the University's established procedures regarding alleged discrimination ~~and harassment~~.

~~(3)~~(5) The University's commitment to provide reasonable accommodations to students for the observation and practice of religious beliefs shall be made known to faculty and students annually as required by law and, prior to the start of each academic term, the University shall provide an updated interfaith calendar or other similar resource for faculty reference.

Specific Authority: ~~Article~~; Article IX of the Florida Constitution, 1006.53, F.S., Board of Governors Regulation 6.0115. History—New 8-6-12; Amended _____.