

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FORTY-SEVENTH SENATE
NINETEENTH SESSION
MARCH 7, 2018**

**RESOLUTION #4721
Religious Exemption Policy on Syllabi**

SPONSORED BY: Faith, Belief, and Cultural Inclusion Committee,

WRITTEN BY: Merall Sherif, Power-Chair, Senator, Women Gender Advocacy Center

COLLABORATED WITH:

ENDORSED BY: Kevin Sullivan, Officer of Recruitment and Retention; Tristan Syron, UFFAB Chair; Morgan Seiter, Senator, College of Agriculture; Liam D. Aubrey, Senator, College of Business; Alexandra Gertner, Director of Traditions and Programs, College of Health and Human Sciences, Rebecca Rathburn College of Health and Human Sciences, Kanayo Okolo, Student ; Josh Lindell, Committee Chair University Issues; Austin Fearn, Senator, College of Natural Sciences; Cerridwyn Nordstrom; External Committee Chair, Senator Resources for Disabled Students; Katie Haggstrom; Senator Graduate School; Tamera Breidenbach, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; University Issues Committee; Haneen Badri, Senator, BA/AC Office; Josh Williams, Senator, Multi-Faith and Belief Council

ABSTRACT: This resolution aims to encourage understanding for students with absences due to observing formal religious holidays, and seeks to facilitate communication in regards to absences for religious holidays that are not formally excused by Colorado State University. This resolution advocates for the inclusion of the campus's religious exemption policy and particular course accommodation standards on syllabi.

WHEREAS

Freedom in the practice of religion is a constitutional right. Diversity of religion is what contributes to the richness of our campus demographic. Colorado State University's formal statement of Student Rights establishes the following in Clause 1:

“Students have the right to freedom from discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, creed, political beliefs, national origin, age, or disability.”

Refusing to provide accommodation for the opportunity to make up points or allowing a formal exemption or excuse contributes towards discrimination on the basis of religion considering this would disadvantage diverse students and privilege other students; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University's formal statement of Student Rights establishes the following in Clause 5:

"In all instances of general discipline, academic discipline, and academic evaluation, the student has the right to fair and impartial treatment."

The recognition of majority group holidays and lack of recognition of the observation of nonmajority group holidays contributes toward the privileging of certain students and the marginalization of others. In order to practice the impartial treatment of every student in regards to academic evaluation, an educator's class policy should justly consider all major and non-major group religious holidays and reasonably accommodate all belief systems respectively. To elaborate further, every student should be allowed to observe a religious holiday whether the university provides a formal day off or not; and,

WHEREAS

This resolution seeks to promote communication between students, educators, and administration to negotiate accommodations that respect both the integrity of the educator's course and a student's right to observe their religion; and,

WHEREAS

Syllabi are standing contracts between student and professor that outline the expectations and framework of a course and therefore serve as the standard of reference for all student and professor expectations.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

That the ASCSU Senate urges the university administration to recommend the inclusion of the standing university policy for religious exemptions be included in all syllabi.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That professors are encouraged to include a short address of the accommodations available within the integrity of their course so as to set a precedent for how all students may be reasonably accommodated.

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PASSAGE

03/21/2018

DATE

TAGS: Diversity, Religious Holidays, Freedom of Religion, Impartiality

Citations for any external references:

<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-rights/#student-bill-rights>