

3-22-1984

Academic Standards and Calendar Committee #83-84-1A: Religious Holy Days and Make-Up Examinations Resubmitted

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_bills

Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Academic Standards and Calendar Committee #83-84-1A: Religious Holy Days and Make-Up Examinations Resubmitted" (1984). *Faculty Senate Bills*. Paper 1038. https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_bills/1038

This Legislation is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Bills by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu. For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Edward D. Eddy

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Academic Standards and Calendar Committee
#83-84-1A: Religious Holy Days and Make-Up Examinations Resubmitted

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on March 22, 1984
(date)
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Governors, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on April 12, 1984 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Governors for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Governors, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

March 23, 1984
(date)

Marguerite Bumpus
Marguerite Bumpus
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

Returned.

- a. Approved _____.
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors _____.
- c. Disapproved _____.

6/6/84
(date)

Edward D. Eddy
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CALENDAR COMMITTEE

REPORT #83-84-1A

Religious Holy Days and Make Up Examinations Resubmitted

At the direction of the Faculty Senate, the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee reconsidered its proposals on Religious Holy Days and Make-Up Examinations as presented on our Report #82-84-1 which appeared on the Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting #6, December 1, 1983. The committee met with Rabbi Casper and student representatives from the Hillel Board and considered all of the instructions given to the committee in Senate Action #83-84-8. The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee recognizes that there are a number of viewpoints on these issues but still believes that the University Calendar should be a secular calendar and that a comprehensive policy on make-up examinations will resolve many of the problems which led to the existing University Manual sections on Religious Observance.

I. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

Existing

6.20.10 Policy on Religious Observance.
No faculty or staff member, administrator or student shall be discriminated against because of religious beliefs or practice.

6.20.11 To facilitate course planning, religious holy days shall be designated in the university's calendar. Such designation shall be accomplished as follows: any member of the university community may petition the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee to include on the academic calendar such religious holy days which traditionally have precluded secular activities. The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee shall forward to the Faculty Senate any recommendations for such designations.

6.20.12 On such days where the religious calendar conflicts with the academic calendar, every effort shall be made by the faculty and teaching assistants to accommodate without prejudice the religious needs of the concerned students. In instances where quizzes, tests and examinations are scheduled on designated holy days, one of the following options must be made available to students:

Proposed

NO CHANGE

6.20.11 To facilitate course planning, the University Chaplains shall prepare and provide to the staff and faculty a comprehensive listing of religious holy days that traditionally have precluded secular activity. This list shall be provided each semester at least one week prior to the first day of classes. See sections 8.51.11-14 for relevant university make up policy.

DELETE (See proposed 8.51.11)

Existing

- a. the same quiz, test or examination be administered either before or after the normally scheduled time;
- b. a comparable alternate quiz, test or examination to be administered either before or after the scheduled time;
- c. an alternative weighting of the remaining evaluative components of the course which is mutually acceptable to the student and the faculty member.

Proposed

6.20.13 A letter from the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate shall be sent to each faculty member and teaching assistant describing the university's policy with respect to the administration of quizzes, tests and examinations on university recognized religious holy days one week prior to the first week of each semester.

DELETE

Rationale: Although the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee recognizes there a number of view points on this issue, it is our unanimous view that the university calendar should remain secular and ought not list the holy days of any religion. The committee is, nevertheless, convinced that students who observe holy days that preclude secular activity ought not be penalized in anyway for their religious beliefs and practice. For this reason we believe it important for the university community to be informed about holy days by the chaplains. We also believe that when students miss academic work because of their religious observance, they should have an opportunity to make up the missed work before the end of the semester in progress when the work is missed. Because a make up policy ~~policy~~ affects not only the observance of religious practices but as other legitimate reasons for missing scheduled work, the ASCC unanimously recommends the following as university policy for the make up of missed work.

II. UNIVERSITY MAKE UP POLICY

Existing

6.20.12 (see above)

Proposed

8.51.11 Students who plan to be absent from classes or examinations for religious holy days that traditionally preclude secular activity (see 6.20.11 for how such information is made available) shall discuss this with the appropriate instructor(s) in advance of the

Existing

Proposed

holy day. The instructor(s) shall then make one of the following options available;

- a. the same quiz, test, or examination be administered either before or after the normally scheduled time;
- b. a comparable alternative quiz, test, or examination to be administered either before or after the scheduled time;
- c. an alternative weighting of the remaining evaluative components of the course which is mutually acceptable to the student and instructor(s).

8.51.12 Students who expect to be absent from classes or examinations for university sanctioned events shall discuss this with the appropriate instructor(s) in advance of the sanctioned event(s). The instructor(s) concerned shall then offer the student an alternative listed in section 8.51.11. For these purposes university sanctioned events shall be those events approved for class excuses by a Vice President, a Dean, or the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. Disagreements over the validity of an excuse shall be mediated by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.*

8.51.13 When serious illness, accident, personal tragedy, or other serious matters prevent students from attending classes, taking examinations, or meeting deadlines, the instructor(s) concerned shall offer the student an alternative listed in section 8.51.11. Disagreements over the seriousness of an illness, accident, personal tragedy, or other serious matter may need to be mediated by the concerned instructor's department chair, dean, or eventually the Vice

*Referred to
Committee
Action #8384--14*

Existing

Proposed

President for Academic Affairs. Either students or their instructors may seek such mediation.*

8.51.14 Requests for make-up, no matter what reason is offered for the absence, must be made before the end of the semester in which absence(s) occur. The provisions of 8.51.11-14 are not meant to affect instructors rights to give or not to give an Incomplete grade if the circumstances warrant such action (see section 8.53.20-21).

Rationale: The committee believes that there are too many incidents in which students who miss coursework for legitimate reasons are denied access to an appropriate make-up. For this reason the committee recommends a carefully spelled out policy that protects the rights of faculty and students. Both Assistant Vice President Swan and Dean Strommer have encouraged the articulation of a make-up policy.

** ADD: If an agreement cannot be reached, the Vice President for Academic Affairs shall decide the matter and his/her decision shall be final.*