



February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To the Student Body at Florida State University:

Florida State University and our Student Government Association is committed to supporting our student body consisting over 42,000 students in the practice of their religious or faith traditions, should they so choose. We encourage students to be aware of the religious observance policy and opportunities to connect to resources and campus partners that nurture students' faith practices. This past fall the Student Government Association advocated for and the Faculty Senate passed an Updated Religious Observance Policy.

**Update Religious Observance Policy:**

The University's Religious Holy Day Observance Policy provides for reasonable accommodations will be provided to students who request to be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of their faith.

Florida State University policy on student observance of religious holy days provides:

- Each student shall, upon notifying their instructor as soon as possible upon receipt of the course syllabus, but no later than two weeks before the religious holy day observance, be excused from class to observe a religious holy observance of their faith. Students should consider the policy and their observation requests when joining particular student groups or experiential learning project dates or presentations.
- While the student will be held responsible for the material covered in their absence, each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the work missed.
- Instructors and University administrators shall not penalize students who are absent from academic activities because of excused religious holy day observance. Instructors may find information provided in this link to be helpful when responding to student requests concerning holy day observation: <https://www.interfaith-calender.org/>
- Students who believe that this policy has been improperly applied in specific instances should refer to the Grievance Procedure in the General Bulletin, <http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity/>.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Interfaith Council:**

Additionally, the Interfaith Council at Florida State University brings together a wide variety of religious traditions to share a common interest in the free expression of religious faith and beliefs to support all students. The Interfaith Council may be helpful to both faculty and students in understanding the contours of any given religious observance. More information can be found online, <https://interfaithcouncil.fsu.edu/>

In Seminole Pride,



Evan Steinberg  
Student Body President