

Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #18-05

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly's goal is to foster student personal and academic development by supporting and accommodating their diverse backgrounds, and
- WHEREAS: There is no mention of religious holiday accommodations in the Campus Administrative Policy, and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly Academic Senate Resolution AS-592-03, passed in 2003, states that it is "strongly urged" that professors allow for excused absences for religious holidays, and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly Academic Senate Resolution AS-677-09, passed in 2009, states that there is a preference to not schedule the first day of the quarter on religious holidays, and
- WHEREAS: Certain religious holidays span an entire month and it is unrealistic to offer month long excused absences and the current Academic Senate resolutions do not offer any guidelines for these instances, and
- WHEREAS: Section 89320 of the California State Education Code states that the California State University system must accommodate students by providing alternative options when administering any examination that might "violate the students religious creed," and
- WHEREAS: Some religious holidays require long stints of fasting and students who are required to take examinations during periods of fasting may see adverse effects on their grades, and
- WHEREAS: In Fall Quarter of 2017, ASI administered a survey to a variety of religious groups and clubs on campus to get student feedback on their experience celebrating religious holidays on campus, and
- WHEREAS: Of the 181 students surveyed, 16 students have had a professor refuse to reschedule an exam due to a religious holiday, and
- WHEREAS: 45 surveyed students have reported fasting while taking an exam, including nine students who have taken over five exams while fasting, and
- WHEREAS: 29% of students surveyed who have fasted for religious holidays during class stated that their student success was negatively impacted due to "unexcused absences taken due to observation of a religious holiday", and
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED: In order to best support student success, the ASI Board of Directors, as the official voice of students, recommend that Cal Poly creates a comprehensive policy pertaining to religious holiday considerations and accommodations, and

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

The ASI Board of Directors recommend that Cal Poly provides an opportunity to take an early morning final option for students who are fasting during daytime periods of finals week for religious holidays, and

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

The ASI Board of Directors recommend that Cal Poly require professors to excuse a minimum of two absences for religious holidays each academic quarter with student notification of potential absences one week prior, and

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

The ASI Board of Directors encourages the Academic Senate to resolve to the same conclusions found in this resolution, and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

That this resolution be sent to Jeffrey D. Armstrong, University President, Keith B. Humphrey, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Kathleen Enz Finken, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dustin Stegner, Academic Senate Chair, and Corinne Lehr, Academic Senate Instruction Committee Chair.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this _____ day of _____, 2018.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this _ day of _____2018.

Attest:

ASI Secretary

Signed:
ASI Chair of the Board

Signed:
ASI President

Authored By:
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