

Originally Presented on:	05/07/2020
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #67
2 Religious Holiday Conflicts
3

4 **ABSTRACT:** This resolution recommends that no exams are scheduled on major religious holidays
5 where these holidays are defined as the bolded dates on the [Cornell academic schedule](#) Furthermore
6 this resolution recommends a campus-wide form for students to report conflict exams on religious
7 holidays not outlined by the Cornell academic schedule and class days missed for religious holidays.
8 Make-up exams will be required for every class a student reports a conflict exam and class
9 recordings or slides/notes must be provided for missed classes.

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11 **Sponsored by:** Rachel Marciano '20, Erik Kruse '21, Amanda Rabin '21, Rachel Rosenthal '22,
12 Youhan Yuan '21, Julia Zimmerman '22
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14 **Whereas**, current policy dictates “Instructional staff are required by New York State law to
15 accommodate students when religious observance conflicts with exam-taking, class attendance, and
16 other course-related requirements”;

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18 **Whereas**, there is no uniform policy for how professors should address exams or class on religious
19 holidays resulting in non-uniform accommodations among professors;
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21 **Whereas**, for the major religious holidays that students may not partake in exams due to
22 observance, it is up to administrative staff and instructors provide makeup exams for students where
23 it is possible and practicable to do so;
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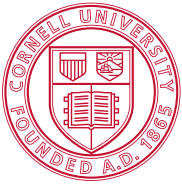
25 **Whereas**, for the major religious holidays (Eid al-Adha, Ramadan, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur,
26 on the first and second days of Sukkot, on Shemini Atzeret, on Simchat Torah, on Shavu'ot, and the
27 first, second, seventh and eighth days of Passover, Jewish Sabbath, Christmas Day, Easter, Good
28 Friday) in which students may not attend class for religious observance reasons, it is up to the
29 professor in which to decide what the makeup policy for the missed class is;
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31 **Whereas**, students are not guaranteed full reimbursement of the information learned in class in an
32 absence due to religious observance;
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34 **Whereas**, our peer institutions

- 35 • University of Pennsylvania and Northwestern University prohibit giving examinations on
36 major religious holidays
- 37 • While Duke University, University of Pennsylvania, and Emory University have standardized
38 forms allowing students to notify professors of religious conflicts with classes and/or
39 examinations
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41 **Be it further resolved**, that all examinations are prohibited on what the University currently
42 considers to be “major religious holidays.”



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Be it further resolved, that students are given equal opportunities to learn the information taught during the class they missed, by means of the class slides or notes, and/or video-recorded lectures.

Be it further resolved, that the University establishes a standardized system to allow students to notify professors of conflicts with religious holidays and holiday-related travel, that are not accommodated by University wide policies, granting them excused absences from class

Be it further resolved, that the University establishes that no student is to be given a more difficult make-up exam or project, or to be penalized in any other way, due to missing a scheduled exam or class due to a religious conflict

Be it further resolved, that solutions determined feasible by this committee be considered for implementation across all undergraduate university departments;

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the Dean of Faculty, the Dean of Students, and the Educational Policy Committee of the Faculty Senate;

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Marciano '20
Chair, Academic Policy Committee

Erik Kruse '21
Member, Academic Policy Committee

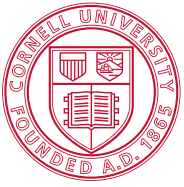
Amanda Rabin '21
Member, Academic Policy Committee

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(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 10-0-2, 05/04/2020)



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