

**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION

REGULATION NO.: FIU-2504

REGULATION TITLE: Student Religious Observances, Practices, and Beliefs

SUMMARY: This Regulation provides direction to faculty, staff, and students regarding a student's rights and responsibilities related to the observance of their religious practices in the admissions process, their classroom attendance, and completion of assignments/exams. This Regulation also outlines the student grievance procedure if a student believes their religious observances, practices, or beliefs are not reasonably accommodated.

TEXT OF REGULATION: The full text of the Proposed Regulation can be viewed below and on the website of The Florida International University Board of Trustees, <http://regulations.fiu.edu>. If you would like a copy of the Proposed Regulation, please contact Eli Deville, Departmental Administrator, Office of the General Counsel, (305) 348-2103.

AUTHORITY: Resolution of the Florida Board of Governors dated January 7, 2003: Board of Governors Regulation 6.0115.

NAME OF PERSON INITIATING PROPOSED REGULATION: Dr. Elizabeth Bejar, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

ANY PERSON SEEKING TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED REGULATION MUST SUBMIT COMMENTS IN WRITING TO THE CONTACT PERSON LISTED BELOW. ALL WRITTEN COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CONTACT PERSON WITHIN 14 CALENDAR DAYS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

CONTACT PERSON REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION: Eli Deville, Departmental Administrator, Office of the General Counsel, Florida International University, 11200 SW 8th Street, PC 511, Miami, FL 33199. Email: devillee@fiu.edu Fax: (305) 348-3272. Phone: 305-348-2103.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: March 18, 2019

THE FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS PROVIDED BELOW:

FIU-2504 Student Religious Observances, Practices, and Beliefs

- (1) Florida International University (“University”) recognizes and values students’ rights to observe and practice their religious beliefs. The University will reasonably accommodate the religious observances, practices, and beliefs of students in regard to admissions, class attendance, and coursework such as class exams, class assignments, and class events.
- (2) Class instructors are required to reasonably accommodate students in class attendance and course work because of religious observances, practices, and beliefs.
 - a. Students are responsible for any material covered or tested during an excused absence, but shall be given a reasonable amount of time to complete coursework including course exams and course assignments missed during their prior approved absence. The approved make-up assignment and examination must be equivalent in content, type, and grading scale to the missed coursework.
 - b. Students who desire to be excused from class or coursework to observe or practice their religious beliefs should notify all instructors preferably upon receipt or access to the syllabus, but in no case later than two (2) weeks before the religious observance or practice.
 - c. A student who has requested to be excused from class or coursework for a religious observance or practice is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.
- (3) The University does not consider religious observances, practices, or beliefs in determining admission to University undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. If a prospective or current student believes their religious observances, practices, or beliefs were considered in admission, the student must timely submit a written statement which includes any information to be considered regarding an accommodation to their religious observances, practices, or beliefs to one of the following. A second party certification of the student’s religious observance, practice, or belief is not required:
 - a. The Admission Petition and Appeals Committee for appeals of admission to undergraduate degree programs;
 - b. The graduate program director for appeals of admission to graduate degree programs; or
 - c. The applicable professional school admissions director for appeals of admission to professional degree programs.
- (4) Students who believe their religious observances, practices, or beliefs were not reasonably accommodated in accordance with this Regulation may seek redress by filing a grievance with the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Diversity, Complaint Contacts at <https://diversity.fiu.edu/contacts/>. All grievances will be processed in accordance with the University’s regulations and policies regarding alleged discrimination.

Authority: Fla. Const. art. IX, section 7, Board of Governors Regulation 6.0115; History -
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