

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT**

DATE: November 24, 2008

REGULATION TITLE AND NUMBER: 6.0115 – Religious Observances

SUMMARY: Regulation 6.0115 provides requirements for each university board of trustees to establish regulations for religious observances in accordance with minimum guidelines established by the Board of Governors. Institution regulations must reasonably accommodate the religious observance, practice, and belief of individual students in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. Each regulation shall include a grievance procedure and shall be made clearly known to all students and faculty.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION: The full text of the proposed regulation for amendment is posted on Board of Governor’s Web site at www.flbog.edu. In addition, the full text of the regulation is available upon request to the Office of the Chancellor, at (850) 245-0466.

AUTHORITY TO AMEND REGULATION(S): Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; BOG Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS’ OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATION: Vikki Shirley, General Counsel.

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation on which you are commenting:

Vikki R. Shirley, General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System, 325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or generalcounsel@flbog.edu.

6.0115 Religious Observances of Religious Holy Days.

- (1) Each university board of trustees shall adopt a regulation which reasonably accommodates the religious observance, practice, and belief of individual students in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.
- (2) Each regulation shall include a grievance procedure by which a student who believes that he or she has been unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to his or her religious belief or practices may seek redress.
- (3) Such regulation shall be made known to faculty and students annually in inclusion in the institution's handbook, manual, or other similar document regularly provided to faculty and students.

~~(1) Each university shall adopt a policy on the observance of religious holy days in accordance with these minimum requirements and the requirements of Section 240.134, Florida Statutes.~~

~~(2) A student who wishes to observe a religious holyday of his or her religious faith will notify all of his or her instructors and be excused from class to observe the religious holy day.~~

~~(3) The student will be held responsible for any material covered during the excused absence, but will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up any work missed. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and university ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day.~~

~~(4) Students who are absent from academic or social activities because of religious observances will not be penalized.~~

~~(5) Each university shall provide a procedure for students to seek redress in cases where the students believe they have been denied educational benefits because of their religious belief or practice.~~

~~(6) The policy on the observance of religious holy days and the applicable procedure shall be included in the student handbook, university catalogue, or other material regularly distributed to university students and faculty members.~~

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., History -- New 3-29-89.