

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXIII-M10
on acknowledging major holidays and observances

1. Motion Presenter: Shelley Mulligan on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee
2. Dates of Faculty Senate Discussion: 11/26/2018, 12/10/2018
3. **Rationale:** To create a fully inclusive campus community that is respectful of the needs of all students.
4. **Motion:** The Faculty Senate recommends the following actions to acknowledge major holidays and observances, and to increase awareness of needs for accommodations:
 - The Faculty Senate recommends that significant religious holidays and observances be identified on each year's academic calendar.
 - The Faculty Senate recommends that course instructors include the following statement in their syllabi to address the needs of students of all faiths, "In the event that a student needs accommodation for a religious or cultural holiday/observance, that student is encouraged to make that request as early in the semester as possible."
 - The Faculty Senate recommends that the university not schedule significant campus events on major religious holidays and/observances.
 - The Faculty Senate recommends that the UNH Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook be updated to include consideration of religious observances for excused absences in section 04.13. The proposed change is as follows:(item e is added).

04.13(fs) Excused absences. The designation of excused absences and the assignment of any subsequent makeup work are the prerogative of the course instructor. It is expected that instructors will be reasonable in the exercise of this prerogative. In general, students may be excused for reasons such as (a) ill health, (b) participation in official intercollegiate events, (c) personal emergencies, (d) instructional trips, and e) important religious holidays and/or observances as discussed with the instructor, and they will then not be subject to academic penalty.
5. **Senate action:** The motion passed with 55 votes in favor, 4 votes opposed, and 2 abstentions.

6. 

Senate Chair, Robert S. Smith

Forwarded to the following on January 31, 2019

President James Dean
Provost Wayne Jones
P.T. Vasudevan, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Ted Kirkpatrick, Senior Vice Provost for Student Life and Dean of Students
Monica Chiu, Interim Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity
Andy Colby, Registrar
All deans
All department chairs