SR-07-08-(15) 46 BAPC

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BUDGET AND ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION

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In response to a request from the Dean of Student Affairs, the current policy in the 2007-08 General Undergraduate Catalog pertaining to Class Attendance, particularly the EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS sections, was reviewed for clarity and applicability in the current socio-political and religious environment.

As a result, the Budget and Academic Policy Committee recommends that the current policy be revised as follows with deletions being indicated with strikethrough.

Definitions of Excused Absences (pg 128-129): Excused absences fall into five categories: ....

5. Religious Holidays: This applies to major religious holidays. Please see the Dean of Student Affairs for a list of such holidays.

Process to Secure an Excused Absence (pg 129-130): The student who seeks an excused absence must do so immediately after the event....

5. Religious Holidays: Absences resulting from major religious holidays will be excused when the student presents the request in advance of the absence to the Dean of Student Affairs. The dean will indicate his/her official excused absence notification to faculty.

RATIONALE:

Attendance policies for fifteen peer institutions were compared for specificity and consistency, revealing a diverse approach. In addition, area experts in religious studies content were consulted, resulting in recommendations against identifying "acceptable and unacceptable" major religious holidays.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE: ____________ DATE: 2/1/2008

DISAPPROVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE: ____________ DATE: ____________