

Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee

Response to Charge S-1602 Revised November 10, 2017

Charge S-1602 Modified - Policies on Excused Student Absences for Religious Observance: Consider Rutgers policies on excused student absences for religious observance, and make recommendations on how best to revise those policies in light of the increasing diversity of the Rutgers student body. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by October 2017. [Issued March 2016. Reissued March 2017]

Revised November 3, 2017: The revised charge removes Barbara Lee as the source of the proposed/requested charge.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded that we respond to Charge S-1602 Revised by endorsing the current Rutgers policy, Section 10.2.7B, listed below. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Cordially,

Bob

Robert A. Schwartz, Chair

RUTGERS POLICY

Section: 10.2.7

Section Title: Student Academic Regulations & Policies

Policy Name: Course Attendance

Formerly Book: 2.4.7

Approval Authority: President

Responsible Executive: Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Responsible Office: Office of Academic Affairs

Originally Issued: 1959

Revisions: 9/1990; 7/1/2013

10.2.7 COURSE ATTENDANCE

B. It is the policy of the University not to cancel classes on religious holidays. However, students should exercise their own judgment as to attendance in accordance with the dictates of specific school or program policies and requirements governing class attendance. Generally no public ceremonies should be scheduled for these religious holidays. In any case, any ceremonies necessary on these days should be cleared through the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs or the appropriate campus Chancellor.

It is also the policy of the University, when consistent with specific school or program policies and requirements governing class attendance, to excuse without penalty students who are absent because of religious observances and to allow the make-up of work missed because of such absence. Except when related to clinical assignments, examinations and special required out-of-class activities shall ordinarily not be scheduled on those days when religiously observant students refrain from participating in secular activities. Absences for reasons of religious obligation shall not be counted for purposes of reporting.