

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION FOR RAMADAN ACCOMMODATIONS.

The Associated Students Board of Directors recognizes the diverse backgrounds represented in our campus community. We recognize that in order to create an environment that makes steps towards the strategic mission of “inclusive success,” we have to be sensitive and honor the needs and values of all students, staff, and faculty. In recognition that students are currently facing challenges in place due to COVID-19, Muslim students will be navigating academia while also observing the holy month of Ramadan.

WHEREAS, we are in the holy month of Ramadan, a month important to 1.8 billion followers of Islam — and a number of Western Washington University students, faculty, and staff.

WHEREAS, during this holy month of Ramadan, Muslim students abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset. Therefore, their mental and physical abilities to complete an assignment during the day may be compromised.

WHEREAS, due to the geographical location of Washington State, students will be refraining from food and water for 14 hours of a day.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 5166, effective July 8, 2019 states that, "educational institutions must develop policies to accommodate students' absences to allow students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience... so that students' grades are not adversely impacted by the absences."

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 5166, also states that faculty are required to "accommodate students who, due to the observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of the course or program"

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

THAT, faculty is courteous with evening deadlines, and if a student who is fasting needs to complete their assignment during the hours after sunset, have a twelve-hour grace period without impacting their grades.

THAT, online exams and quizzes, if strictly timed and on limited hours, can be taken with reasonable accommodations at a different time discussed between both the student and professor.

THAT, this resolution be forwarded to President Sabah Randhawa, Vice President Melynda Huskey, Provost and Vice President Brent Carbajal, Faculty Senate Chair Jeff Young, All WWU College Deans, and all Department chairs to distribute to individual professors.