

To: University Regulation Review and Approval Process

From: Allyson Hicks, director, university regulations

Date: November 26, 2024

Re: New Proposed Rule R6-100B: Student Religious Accommodations

Description of Proposed New Rule

During the 2024 general session, the Utah Legislature passed a bill requiring that each institution of higher education create a policy for scheduling accommodation for students for religious observances that includes certain provisions. University of Utah Policy 6-100: Instruction and Evaluation Section III.O already provides for a student to be absent from a class for religious obligations:

“Students absent from class to participate in officially sanctioned University activities (e.g., band, debate, student government, intercollegiate athletics), or government obligations (e.g., military duty), or religious obligations, or with instructor’s approval, shall be permitted to make up both assignments and examinations.”

This proposed rule provides the specific additional details about religious accommodations required by the state law.

Regulation Development Process

This draft rule was developed in consultation with Academic Affairs Units, including the Office for Faculty, the Office for Faculty Health Sciences, the Office of the Dean of Students, and Enrollment Management. The draft rule was reviewed by the Institutional Policy Committee, the Senate Advisory Committee on Academic Policy, and the Council of Academic Deans.