

Proposal: On QCC and Informing Student of their Rights with regard to Religious Observances

Whereas on November 13, 2018, the Academic Senate passed the following resolution:

Whereas, Queensborough Community College is committed to providing an academic and work environment that is respectful of the religious beliefs of its students, faculty, and staff, and

whereas, there are CUNY policies and state and federal laws with regard to the right of students and faculty to participate in religious observances, and

whereas, there is a need to insure that faculty and students are aware of the CUNY policies and pertinent laws and regulation, therefore

be it resolved that, the Academic Senate Steering Committee working with the College Office of Academic Affairs and the Student Government Association will develop a plan related to the rights of students to participate in religious observances and report such plan to the Academic Senate by May of 2019.

Therefore, the Steering Committee, Office of Academic Affairs and Student Government Association bring forward the following three recommendations:

1. Provide a link to the [CUNY request for Religious Accommodations](#) in the ST 100 Blackboard course as of Fall 2019 semester and have all first time full time students access to this policy.
2. Have faculty place on their syllabi the following statement, in accordance with the CUNY policy regarding NYS education law 224-a:
Religious Observance Statement for syllabi

Per NYS Education Law 224-a, student absences for religious observances shall be excused, provided notification is given to the professor by email at least one week in advance. Observing students will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up any class activity that takes place during such an absence. Follow these links for more information on the [Request for Religious Accommodations](#) and [Time off for Religious Observance](#).

3. As of the Spring 2020 semester, the Blackboard template on student resources will be revised to include [Request for Religious Accommodations](#) among other important QCC student resource policies.