

Adopted: February 10 2009

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-677-09

**RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC CALENDAR: MAJOR
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE ON FIRST DAY OF CLASSES**

- 1 WHEREAS, AS-511-98 *Resolution on the Academic Calendar: Resolving Conflicts with*
2 *Religious Holidays* (attached) established that “in calendar years in which the first
3 Monday of fall quarter falls on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, that instruction
4 will begin on the Tuesday of that week”; and
5
- 6 WHEREAS, Recently the Academic Senate has endorsed a calendar (2009-10) for which
7 another significant religious holiday (Eid-al-Fitr also occasionally falling on the
8 first Monday of fall quarter) will follow the convention of AS-511-98; and
9
- 10 WHEREAS, California state law stipulates that public institutions of higher education make
11 every effort possible to accommodate observance of religious holidays; and
12
- 13 WHEREAS, In order to be respectful of all religions and cultures, Academic Senate policies
14 should not single out or specify any particular religious group or holiday; be it
15 therefore
16
- 17 RESOLVED: That AS-511-98/IC be repealed; and be it further
18
- 19 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommend Cal Poly avoid scheduling the first day of
20 classes in conflict with major religious or cultural holidays; and be it further
21
- 22 RESOLVED: That the Academic Calendar Guidelines established by the Office of Academic
23 Programs and Undergraduate Education, reference which religious or cultural
24 holidays are considered major for the purposes of scheduling the first day of
25 classes; and be it further
26
- 27 RESOLVED: That these policies be implemented beginning fall quarter 2010.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Date: November 25, 2008
Revised: January 27, 2009

Background Material

Adopted: November 24, 1998

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California**

**AS-511-98/IC
RESOLUTION ON THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR: RESOLVING CONFLICTS WITH
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

WHEREAS, C.A.M. section 48 1.B. 1 states, "Whenever possible, the first day of instruction in each quarter will be Monday with a 48 day minimum per quarter (49 day minimum spring) and whenever possible the last day of instruction each quarter will be a Friday;" and

WHEREAS, The first Monday in the academic calendar for Fall Quarter occasionally falls on the significant holidays of Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur; and

WHEREAS, California state law stipulates that public institutions of higher education make every effort possible to accommodate observance of religious holidays; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to stay within the required number of Instructional Days and Academic Year Work Days; be it therefore

RESOLVED: That in calendar years in which the first Monday of Fall Quarter falls on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, that instruction will begin on the Tuesday of that week; and be it further

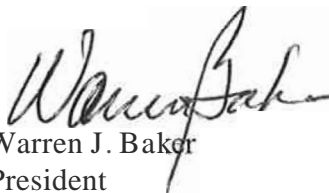
RESOLVED: That during these same calendar years, minimum Academic Year Work Days will be maintained by extending the Fall term by one day, which will be noted as a "Grades Due" day but will not be an instructional day.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Date: November 16, 1998

State of California
Memorandum

To: John Soares
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: February 27, 2009

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: R. Koob
D. Conn

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-677-09
Resolution on Academic Calendar: Major Religious Holiday Observance on First Day of
Classes

This will acknowledge receipt and approval of the above-entitled resolution. By copy of this memorandum, I will ask Provost Koob and Vice Provost Conn to give careful consideration to avoiding scheduling the first day of classes on major religious or cultural holidays when developing future Academic Calendars for Cal Poly.