ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION AR-2019-02: A RESOLUTION FOR STUDENT RAMADAN ACCOMMODATIONS

A STATEMENT FROM THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF SPONSORING AN INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS OBSERVING FAST IN THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

WHEREAS, The West Virginia University Student Government Association’s Preamble “ensures the personal freedoms and general welfare of the student body”; and,

WHEREAS, The West Virginia University Board Of Governors Governance Rule 1.6 Section 1 states, “West Virginia University is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive culture by promoting diversity, inclusion, equality, and intercultural and intercommunity outreach. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, marital or family status, pregnancy, veteran status, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or gender expression in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities, or with respect to admission or employment.”; and,

WHEREAS, During the Holy month of Ramadan (April 23rd - May 23rd) Muslims observe fast, which requires abstinence from food and drink from dawn (spans from 4:09am to 4:55am over the month) to sunset (spans from 8:06pm to 8:40pm over the month); and,

WHEREAS, There is a large Muslim student population on campus and though the University has no database for student religious affiliation, looking at student organizations, the Muslim Student Association for example has been active at WVU since 1975 and accumulated over 700 members over the years. The Muslim Student Association does not account for all Muslim students on campus as there are others in various student groups or with no group ties, with majorities being in the Pakistani Student Association, Emirati Students Association, Omani Student Association, Iranian Student Association, Saudi Students Association, and Imam Hussein Student Association; and,

WHEREAS, Students have evening finals, and this may be scheduled during the time of the end of fast; and,
WHEREAS, WVU’s four dining halls and Mountainlair Food Court open after the start of fast and close before the break of fast with the Mountainlair closing at 9:00 pm, within an hour of the break of fast.; and,

WHEREAS, As representatives of the student body it is our responsibility to be a voice for students who may not be among the majority; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The West Virginia University Student Government Association supports the initiative to provide testing and dining accommodations for Muslim students observing fasting in the Holy month of Ramadan including earlier testing times and meal options; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,

The West Virginia University Student Government Association is supporting steps to maintain student academic performance and nutritional health during Ramadan.

1. https://policies.wvu.edu(finalized-bog-rules/bog-governance-rule-1-6-rule

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