



## 2023-24 • STUDENT SENATE • RESOLUTION



*A resolution to implement accommodations as university policy to uplift the religious celebration of Diwali, Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Fitr, Lunar New Year, Vaisakhi, Rosh Hashanah, Orthodox Easter and Yom Kippur for those celebrating at Wayne State University.*

**Presented on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.**

Sponsor: Zaynah Jadallah

WHEREAS, Wayne State University demonstrates a commitment to efforts of diversity and inclusion through the implementation of strategies related to the plan for diversity and inclusion, ideas woven into our mission and our strategic plan,

WHEREAS, The Wayne State University Student Senate seeks to “ensure accurate representation and inclusivity in the decisions made on behalf of our peers. By bridging the gap between students, faculty, staff, and administration, we aim to uplift and encompass the complexities and diversity of the university”<sup>1</sup>,

WHEREAS, these communities on campus have historically raised a concern that there is a lack of official recognition of their holidays, resulting in missing class or not being able to observe these holidays,

WHEREAS, the lack of documentation and recognition of religious holidays on campus further illustrates the severity of the issue and disempowerment of students who practice religious holidays,

WHEREAS, the ability to collectively identify religious students is illegal; “The U.S. Census Bureau does not collect data on religious affiliation in its demographic surveys or decennial census. Public Law 94-521 prohibits us from asking a question on religious affiliation on a mandatory basis”;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, “LANSING, Mich — The Michigan House of Representatives passed a package of bills this week that would formally acknowledge diverse cultures and religions that many Michiganders celebrate. The legislation would establish Diwali, Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Fitr, Lunar New Year, Vaisakhi, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur as state-recognized holidays in Michigan. House Bills 4446, 4447, 4448, 4449, 4544, and 4545 have passed the State House. To be signed into law, the bills would also have to pass in the state Senate.”<sup>3</sup>

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<https://studentsenate.wayne.edu/about#:~:text=Mission%20Statement&text=Our%20main%20priority%20is%20to, and%20diversity%20of%20the%20university.>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ask.census.gov/prweb/PRServletCustom/app/ECORRAsk2\\_/YACFBFye-rFlz\\_FoGtyvDRUGg1Uzu5Mn\\*!STANDARD?pzuiactionzzz=CXtpbn0rTEpMcGRYOG1vS0tqTFAwaENUZWpyM1NNWEMzZ3p5aFpnWUxzVmw0TjJndno5ZkJPc24xNWYvcCtNbVVjWk5Z\\*](https://ask.census.gov/prweb/PRServletCustom/app/ECORRAsk2_/YACFBFye-rFlz_FoGtyvDRUGg1Uzu5Mn*!STANDARD?pzuiactionzzz=CXtpbn0rTEpMcGRYOG1vS0tqTFAwaENUZWpyM1NNWEMzZ3p5aFpnWUxzVmw0TjJndno5ZkJPc24xNWYvcCtNbVVjWk5Z*)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/lansing/michigan-house-passes-bills-that-would-establish-religious-observances-as-state-holidays/69-1e3b86f1-db44-4e7d-a963-05463909ed39>

WHEREAS, students should not have to choose between their GPA and progress in a course or fulfilling their religious duties.

WHEREAS, the Wayne State Student Senate proposes the following accommodations to be made by the university and university administration:

1. Students to be exempt from attending class on the days of these holidays without having their grades suffer.
2. Making it clear that Professors should not schedule exams/quizzes (assessments) on these days.
3. Have professors give extra time for coursework missed during these days of celebration.
4. Advocate on behalf of the students to add these holidays to the academic calendar and create a hyperlink so that professors can click on to access info about those specific holidays.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly of the Wayne State University Student Senate recognizes the need for a recognition on these days to accommodate these students that make up our diverse student body.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly of the Wayne State University Student Senate highly supports efforts to implement a holiday and accommodations on these days.

AND FINALLY, BE IT ORDERED, the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this final resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the University Leadership Council, and the University DEI Council.



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**Hayden Johnson**  
*President*