Aug. 9, 2017

To: All DU faculty members

From: Gary Brower, University Chaplain

Dear colleagues,

I recognize that the fall quarter and semester are soon upon us! The list below highlights religious holidays that have presented scheduling challenges in the past. As you know, DU does not officially recognize ANY religious holidays (nor is this, by any means a comprehensive list) but these days of observance are highly important to their traditions and affect a significant portion of students, faculty and staff at DU. I appreciate your sensitivity as you plan for the coming sessions.

*Eid al Adha* (Islam): Sept. 1 (begins at sundown on Aug. 31)

*Rosh Hashanah* (Judaism): Sept. 21-22 (begins at sundown on Sept. 20)

*Yom Kippur* (Judaism): Sept. 30 (begins at sundown on Sept. 29)

*Sukkot* (Judaism): Oct. 5-11 (begins at sundown on Oct. 4)

*Shmini Atzeret* (Judaism): Oct. 12 (begins at sundown on Oct. 11)

*Simchat Torah* (Judaism): Oct. 13 (begins at sundown on Oct. 12)

*Diwali* (Hinduism): Oct. 19

A more comprehensive list of religious days of observance, as well as a link to an interfaith calendar, can be found at Religious & Spiritual Life’s website.

We at DU have endeavored to celebrate our religious diversity as part of our overall commitment to Inclusive Excellence and, thereby, allow for its expression by members of various traditions. A copy of the Religious Accommodations Policy can be found at the Religious & Spiritual Life website.

I have received requests for language that might be added to syllabi about religious accommodations. As a general matter of course, I add the following to mine:

**Religious Accommodations Policy**
University policy grants students excused absences from class or other organized activities or observance of religious holy days, unless the accommodation would create an undue hardship. Faculty are asked to be responsive to requests when students contact them IN ADVANCE to request such an excused absence. Students are responsible for completing assignments given during their absence, but should be given an opportunity to make up work missed because of religious observance.

Once a student has registered for a class, the student is expected to examine the course syllabus for potential conflicts with holy days and to notify the instructor by the end of the first week of classes of any conflicts that may require an absence (including any required additional preparation/travel time). The student is also expected to remind the faculty member in advance of the missed class, and to make arrangements in advance (with the faculty member) to make up any missed work or in-class material within a reasonable amount of time.

If you have any questions or concerns as to how these holy days are observed in their traditions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

All the best for a good fall!

Gary