Dear Colleagues:

As we look to the beginning of a new academic year, I ask faculty to be sensitive to the needs of our students with regard to religious observance. The Faculty Handbook notes in Section VIII, C. Notification of Causes of Absence, paragraph 5:

"Students returning to a class after a legitimate absence, can expect their instructor's assistance within the limits of the instructor's established attendance policy. In cases of legitimate absence—such as illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance, jury duty, involvement in University-sponsored activities—some accommodation (makeup work, excused absences, change of grade computation) will be arranged subject to previously announced limitations. There are occasions where the size or nature of the course makes it necessary to set limits on the number of excused absences or the availability of makeup work, particularly for exams or special events such as field trips or outside speakers. Such limitations will be explained in the instructor's statement of attendance policy at the beginning of each course. Students with scheduled activities must check with the instructor as early as possible to clarify that there will be no conflict with the policy."

Major religious holidays during Fall Quarter include:

September 9-10, 2010*, Thursday-Friday, Rosh Hashanah, Jewish
September 10, 2010**, Friday, Eid-al-Fitr, Islamic
September 18, 2010*, Saturday, Yom Kippur, Jewish
October 8-16, 2010, Friday-Saturday, Navaratri, Hindu
October 17, 2010, Sunday, Dussehra, Hindu
November 5, 2010, Friday, Diwali, Hindu
November 15, 2010**, Monday, Eid-al-Adha, Islamic

*Jewish holy days begin at sunset on the day before the first date listed and that they end at sundown on the last day of the observance.

**Islamic holidays begin at sunset on the evening before the date given. These holidays are calculated on a lunar calendar and are approximate.

A list of religious holidays and observances of many faiths for the entire academic year is posted on the EVPP website http://www.ohio.edu/provost/.

Your willingness to assist students who have religious obligations will contribute greatly to the type of welcoming and diverse environment we seek to create at Ohio University.

Sincerely,

Pam Benoit
Executive Vice President and Provost