

Changes to Orientation 2010 Schedule Senate Orientation Review Board (SOARB) April 22, 2010

Introduction

The Senate Orientation Activities Review Board (SOARB) uses as its principal set of criteria the stated goals of Orientation as approved by Senate. These goals are:

- to make all new students feel welcome;
- to facilitate a smooth transition to university;
- to build a strong and inclusive community of students;
- to make new students comfortable in their academic, social, and environmental contexts;
- to provide a solid foundation for a successful university experience.

Background

SOARB members met March 22, 2010 and March 27, 2010 to discuss changing the schedule of Orientation Week 2010 to accommodate students observing Rosh Hashanah and Eid al-Fitr. In reaching a decision, SOARB also consulted with Queen's Residences, members of Orientation Round Table, Queen's Hillel, Queen's University Muslim Students Association, Queen's Ismaili Muslim Students Association and staff and faculty with responsibility for Faculty/Group Orientation programs.

Analysis and discussion

Rosh Hashanah, a high holy Jewish holiday with special significance for families to celebrate together, commences at sundown on Wednesday September 8, and continues until Friday September 10, 2010. Eid al-Fitr, a Muslim holiday marking the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, falls on Friday September 10, 2010. Both of these important events coincide with Faculty Orientation days. The faculty, staff and student members of SOARB recognize that the unique and time-limited nature of Faculty Orientation days cannot be replicated at a later time. Therefore, to better meet the goals of Orientation, SOARB recommends a change in the structure of the week to allow as many students as possible to participate in and lead traditional Faculty/Group events, while also enabling them to observe Rosh Hashanah and Eid al-Fitr..

Recommendation

To provide all students the opportunity to participate, to the fullest extent possible, in Queen's Orientation and preserve the integrity of Faculty Orientation programming, SOARB recommends to the Senate that the Orientation Week schedule be changed as follows for 2010:

	NEW SCHEDULE	ORIGINAL SCHEDULE
Saturday, Sept.4	Residence Move-in	Early arrivals
Sunday, Sept. 5:	Residence Orientation (late arrivals)	Move-in & Residence Orientation
Monday, Sept. 6:	Residence Orientation	Residence Orientation
Tuesday, Sept. 7:	Faculty Orientation	Residence Orientation
Wednesday, Sept. 8:	Faculty Orientation *	Faculty Orientation
Thursday, Sept. 9:	Joint Programming Day**	Faculty Orientation
Friday, Sept. 10:	Faculty Orientation*	Faculty Orientation
Saturday, Sept. 11:	Faculty Orientation	Faculty Orientation

* accommodation provided for those observing Eid al-Fitr and Rosh Hashanah.

** students will stay in Faculty groups but will participate in inter-Faculty events.

Respectfully submitted,

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