

Academic Policy Committee  
Minutes  
February 28, 2017

**Members present:** Sarah Ash, Alton Banks, Jeremy Feducia, Kerry Havner, Greg Young, Paul Huffman, Neal Parker, Donna Carver, Sophia Kathariou

**Members Absent:** Chang Nam, Jennifer Kuzma, Marina Bykova,

**Guests:** Louis Hunt, Senior Vice Provost and Registrar

**Topic:** **Changing final exam time from 3 to 2 hours.**

Initial questions:

What about faculty who don't give final exams – will we consider changing the regulation to better reflect what is happening across campus? Should we talk about the use of final exams more generally at NCSU (as recommended by the Associate Deans)?

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**HUNT:** There is little good data. Are looking at facilities utilization and efficiency (e.g. some faculty want to have a bigger space to spread students out). Are clearly more group presentations, senior designs, alternative formats over the years. Have issues with the calendar. For calendar committee, have had too many changes (e.g., changing nature of reading days).

UNC-GA mandate = 750 minutes of class time/ credit hour/semester.

**QUESTION:** Do we have extra hours?

**HUNT:** Depends on the meeting day and the calendar year. Faculty always want all of the instructional time – as many full weeks as possible. Exam period is long. R and R is working on optimizing exam period to minimize conflicts.

**QUESTION:** What about Saturday? Used to have common exams on Saturdays, even during the semester.

**HUNT:** Hunt would not recommend doing that unless there was clear broad-scale support. Are likely to be religious concerns from both faculty and students.

**SUGGESTION:** Could label Saturdays as reading days.

**HUNT:** Currently no reading days. Tried putting them in the middle of the week and that wasn't popular with students.

**HUNT:** Do we really need to start the semester on Monday or Wednesday; is it necessary to take off Good Friday –people could take it as a religious holiday at their discretion. Not seeing any support for moving from 3 to 2 hour exam on the part of faculty.

**QUESTION:** What do students prefer?

**HUNT:** No information regarding student preference.

**QUESTION:** Could we have 4 exams in a day versus 3.

**HUNT:** Yes, but why?

Discussion re the occasional need to move exams and project due dates to dead week when days are lost due to weather, other unforeseen events, that shorten instructional time. This led to a more general discussion regarding the need for a policy to codify the University's response:

Maybe have a new policy that suspends dead week if lose X number of days for whatever reason, maybe at the discretion of the faculty; maybe have Saturday classes or loss of spring break. Could include perhaps closure of just an individual building. Maybe look at UNC-W or ECU for guidance.

Action: AP will draft language for such a policy.