

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Faculty Senate  
Academic Policy Committee

October 6, 2020 Minutes

Attendance: Lisa Bass-Freeman (co-chair), Paul Williams (co-chair), Russell Flinchum, Robert Riehn, Michael Reisdkind, Intae Yoon, Ken Zagacki.

Excused: Fikret Isik

Guests: Charles Clift, Kyle Pysker, Temple Walkowiak

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) of the Faculty Senate discussed the following:

I. Proposed changes to REG02.20.14: Tests and Examinations

The issue discussed at the October 6, 2020 meeting of the Academic Policy Committee was the proposed changes to the Texts and Examinations regulation. Registrar Charles Clift, Kyle Pysker from the Registrar's Office, and Temple Walkowiak, Chair of the Calendar Committee were guests at the meeting to explain the reasons for the proposed changes. A perennial problem in the fall semester is the short turn-around at the end of the fall semester. Because the examination period extends over ten days, there is very little time between the end of that exam period and the time when the Holiday Break begins. This creates problems for numerous units on campus. For the graduate school there is not sufficient time to notify students in academic difficulty, which is particularly problematic for international students. Verifying academic eligibility for student athletes is more difficult because eligibility must be confirmed before all the grades are posted. Shortening the fall semester exam period, because of Covid 19, provided a test case for how this problem with the calendar can be rectified. By reducing the length of the exam period from three hours to two and one half hours allows for the reduction of the final examination period sufficient to alleviate the end of semester crunch. Among our peer schools, we have the longest final exam period; many schools allow only two hours for final exams. Since the fall semester cannot begin before August 16<sup>th</sup> when nine-month faculty contracts begin (new faculty are not employed until that day) there is no solution available at the start of the semester. The Calendar Committee recommends adoption of shorter final exam periods to solve the problem.

The APC members raised some concerns about the proposal. The Physics Department holds qualifying exams during the final exam period so shortening the amount of time for exams would be a hardship for those students. The Committee noted that there will be special cases somewhere no matter what changes are proposed and that special cases be handled on a case-by-case basis. Concern was expressed about common exams always being scheduled at night and that perhaps consideration be given to changing that custom. After discussion the Committee

voted on a motion to endorse the proposed changes to the Tests and Examinations regulation. The vote was unanimous for approving the changes.

I. Old Business

None

II. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Williams  
Co-chair Academic Policy Committee