

HOP 2.17 Final Exam Proposal  
Report  
Academic Policy & Requirements Committee (APRC)  
December 4, 2014

At the November 6, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting Senate members were asked to consider a proposal eliminating the final exam period.

The APRC was charged with collecting pre-stakeholder feedback regarding a possible change in policy. Participation from colleges were mixed. COLFA provided two departmental summaries and seven faculty members individually contacted the APRC chair personally. Three COE faculty submitted feedback. The COB, COEHD, and CPP each had one faculty member submit opinions. No feedback was submitted from the CACP.

Overall, stakeholder comments were not in support of elimination of the Final Exam period. Issues raised included:

- The policy should not be changed without a referendum of the entire faculty body. The survey results provided only sampled a small, non-representative group.
- There should be flexibility in how, when and for how long final exams are scheduled.
- A sound and well articulated rationale should be presented before soliciting stakeholder input.
- There is confusion about the required number of contact hours faculty must have with students. Reports suggested UTSA requires more hours that required by SAC.
- Allowing time at the end of the semester for in class and take-home assessments is reported as valuable for accurate and quality assessment.
- There is concern about having to split the assessment period as (a) some exams require 2.5 hours and (b) some faculty use the time for multiple assessments that require some flexibility of time.

After discussion and a vote, the APRC vote was split. Three members voted to further study the proposal and four members voted to not support the proposal.

**The APRC recommends that the proposal to eliminate Finals Week is not supported by Faculty Senate.**