

***SD 20-59:
ACADEMIC REGULATIONS UPDATE FOR
QUIET PERIOD POLICIES***

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University Senate, April 18, 2022

History of this document

Date	Action
2/24/20 thru 3/6/20	PSG surveys undergraduate and graduate students
October 25, 2020	PSS 20-40 "A resolution to update Purdue's Dead Week Policy" is introduced in Purdue Student Senate, passes Purdue Student Senate.
April 19, 2021	Introduced to University Senate as SD 20-59 for discussion
Sept 2021	SD 20-59 was to be taken up by University Senate but President Kang moved to postpone, with EPC agreeing to take up and revise
April 6ish, 2022	EPC votes to send SD 20-59 to the University Senate
April 18, 2022	SD 20-59 to University Senate for a vote

Background done by PSG for PSS 20-40

Conducted student survey Feb 24 2020-March 6 2020, with 1240 responses, mostly undergraduates, variably distributed across Colleges

- 70% report 3-5 final exams in Fall 2019
- 43% report that dead week policy was not followed
- 81% did not know they could report instructors who violated the academic regulations to ODOS
- 73% agreed or strongly agreed that instructors were more concerned during dead week about students' academic performance than their mental health
- 85% agreed or strongly agreed that protecting dead week from assignments would make their finals week less stressful

What problem is this change in regulations trying to solve?

Students are (often) burned out by the end of the term.

Instructors are (often) behind in their grading.

Students need more time to prepare for final exams. Working on assignments at the same time interferes with this preparation.

Students and instructors alike have misunderstood the previous regulation:

- Students thought there were supposed to be no assignments in “dead week.”
- Instructors had varying understandings, including no assignments if you had a final
- Academic regulations said only:
 - “No examination or quiz may be given during the week (three days in summer session) preceding the final examination period of the semester (examinations for laboratory, intensive, or minicourses excluded).”

What problem is this change in regulations trying to solve?

Mental health concerns are important to address for both students and instructors in tangible and meaningful ways.

Purdue does not have “Study Days”; Dead Week was unofficial and confusing and insufficient.

Many instructors have moved away from high-stakes final exams as final assessments, and so needed a framework inclusive of those.

Proposal

Revise Academic Regulations:

Revise content in Part B:

- Revise: Final exam period intended for end-of-semester assessments.
- Retain: Final exams need to happen in final exam period.
- Add: If you require students to be present for an assessment during Finals Week, then it needs to be scheduled during the final exam period.

Add part C: Quiet Period

- Scheduling
- Distance learning, hybrid, and asynchronous courses are also subject to this regulation.
- For courses that have a final exam:
 - No assignments linked to learning objectives for course credit may be due during the last week of the semester (or associated period in shorter terms)
- For courses that have no final exam:
 - No restriction

Changes from the previous version based on discussion

From April 2021 and EPC discussions

- There was confusion over whether we would cancel instruction.
 - We are not.
- There was much confusion around the distinction between formative and summative assessments.
 - We dispensed with it.
- The term “Reading Week” (which as an analog to Reading Days and benchmarked with Big10) implies no instruction.
 - We changed it to “Quiet Period.”
- The additional examples provided on alternative assessment mechanisms were confusing.
 - We deleted them.

Some existing concerns

Students won't receive graded feedback on material that will be assessed in the final exam the following week.

- They can receive ungraded feedback.

Changes here do not bring about stronger compliance by instructors.

- This is an issue across the academic regulations, not just this one.
- Office of the Vice-Provost for Teaching and Learning can point to the policy in start of term semester letters.
- Students can be better educated about how to report non-compliance (PSG can help with this).

This does not address instructors taking more than their allotted time for instruction during week 16 (and associated time periods).

- True. We lacked data on this from the PSG survey, so decided to exclude it for now.

Some issues it tries not to make worse

Some instructors want to offer a cumulative exam in the last week of instruction, rather than in the final exam period.

- They are already not supposed to. This is retained.
- If the semester is shortened, Quiet Period would further reduce the amount of time for assessment.
 - If we move to a shorter term, we would need to rethink the length of time of Quiet Period, along with rethinking the rest of the academic calendar.

Please vote yes on SD 20-59.

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