To: The University Senate  
From: Purdue Student Government  
Educational Policy Committee  
Subject: Academic Regulations Update for Quiet Period Policies  
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption  
Reference: [1] Purdue Student Senate Resolution 20-40, “A resolution to update Purdue’s Dead Week policy.”  
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SaYNwFblq7SMPgzah6ZAg8VgGpa8vyji/view  
[2] Academic Regulations:  
https://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=16527  

* See also Document 20-59 as presented in April 2021  

Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption  

Rationale: This legislation is based on PSG Resolution 20-40. [1]  

Final exams are inevitably high stress situations for students, a condition which does not contribute to a constructive and positive environment in academic assessments. Students report burdensome amounts of work in some cases [1], and in others, what appear to be comprehensive exams, in addition to final exams during the final exam period.  

As currently stated in Purdue’s Academic Regulations [2], courses are prohibited from administering examinations or quizzes during the week before final exams. The policies surrounding this period and finals week appear unclear, or insufficient, to both faculty and students, as reported by students regarding the burdensome workload assigned during this time. The existing policy also does not accommodate courses in which instructors have decided to use an assessment approach which places a reduced emphasis on high stakes (final) exams.
This proposal seeks to modify the Academic Regulations for this time period to provide more mental space for students to review for their final exams, and opportunity for instructors to grade and return to students already-collected coursework before final exams occur.

This proposal also seeks to change the term “Dead Week” to “Quiet Period” to reflect the intended protection of this time. While we considered using the term “Reading Week,” based on Purdue’s use of “Reading Days” during the first year of the COVID pandemic, those were declared days without any instruction. A benchmarking of Big 10 institutions’ academic calendars confirmed that when institutions listed “reading” periods (reading days, study days, reading periods, etc.) associated with their semester or quarter terms, these periods were days without any instruction or assessment at all, scheduled between the end of classes and the beginning of final exams. We are considering a different timeframe when instruction is still occurring.

Modification of the Academic Calendar is the purview of the University Senate. The votes by Educational Policy Committee represent the agreement to bring this proposal to the University Senate for a full discussion and vote.

Proposal: The University Senate revises the Academic Regulations and Procedures from the original policy on the left, to the policy on the right, in two areas:

- Part B. Final Examinations, revising point 8
- Part C: A new section defining a Quiet Period, its scheduling, and restrictions on student work for courses which offer a final examination.

The revised regulation shall become effective in Fall 2022.

This revision does not change anything with regards to what constitutes a final examination.

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<tr>
<th>Existing language</th>
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<td>B. Final Examinations [Excluding Sections 1-7, with</td>
<td>B. Final Examinations [Excluding Sections 1-7]</td>
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<td>8. The final examination period is intended for the</td>
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<td>end-of-semester examination.</td>
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<td>C. Quiet Period</td>
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1. “Quiet Period” shall occur during the last Monday through Saturday (during the fall and spring terms), or the last three days (for 8 week terms), or the 1 day (in 3-4 week terms) of the instruction period preceding the final examination period. Distance learning, hybrid and asynchronous classes are subject to this same regulation as in-person instruction.

2. “Quiet Period” is defined as a time during which courses that conduct or collect an assessment during the final exam period shall refrain from assigning or collecting assessments.

Here, “assessments” are defined...
as activities relating to the course's learning objectives that students turn in for class credit that the course instructor intends to use to judge whether students have met the associated learning objectives. Assessments do not include class participation during normally-scheduled class time.

Courses that do not offer an assessment (such as a final exam, quiz) during the final examination period are exempt from following the restrictions on Quiet Period.

It is the responsibility of the unit head to ensure that the unit's faculty preserves this regulation thusly.

Committee Votes Educational Policy:

For:
- Faculty
  - Thomas Brush
  - Jennifer Freeman
  - Eric Kvam
  - Alice Pawley
  - Vanessa Quinn
  - Libby Richards
  - Thomas Siegmund

Against:
- Faculty
  - John Sheffield

Abstained:
- Faculty
  - Todor Cooklev
  - Jeffery Stefancic

Absent:
- Faculty
  - Erik Otárola-Castillo
  - Li Qiao
  - Antônio Sá Barreto
  - Jeffrey X. Watt

- Students
  - Elli DiDonna

Ex-Officio Present, but non-voting members:
- Jaclyn Palm
- John Pearson

Students
- Janelle Grant
- Olivia Wyrick

Advisors
- Jeff Elliott
- Keith Gehres
- Jenna Rickus