

Date: 25 March 2009

From: Sterling Grimes, Ex-Officio Member

To: Senate Educational Affairs Committee, Senate Executive Committee

Re: University Exam Policy

In recent years, conversations have occurred regarding the current exam policy for undergraduate students. Under the University's Examination and Course Assessment Guidelines, "students whose class schedule requires them to take more than three final examinations on the same day have the right to reschedule examinations so they have no more than three on a given day." According to the Office of the Registrar, approximately 1,000 students are confronted with this situation each semester. While this number does not represent the overwhelming majority of undergraduate students, it is a significant amount that merits further attention.

Given the current time allocation for a final examination (two hours), a student with three examinations on one day could potentially sit six hours worth of testing. While it is not normal practice for examinations to last the full two hours, the possibility still remains, potentially causing students a great deal of stress due to the need to retain subject matter from three separate courses within a 24-hour time period. Upon consideration, it seems evident that students should be allowed to reschedule examinations if they have more than two on a given day.

After a series of meetings with the Office of the Registrar (David Robb) and the Office of the Provost (Dr. Phyllis Peres), it has been determined that the exam policy is a subject with substantial interest from both the undergraduate student population and the administration. It is therefore requested that the Senate Executive Committee charge the Senate Educational Affairs Committee (or other committee it deems appropriate) with the task of investigating this issue to determine if the current exam policy should be revised to allow rescheduling of final examinations if a student has more than two on the same day.