

**FACULTY SENATE  
ACADEMIC ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

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**WHEN** 3:45pm Thursday March 24, 2022

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**WHERE** via WebEx

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**MEMBERSHIP**

Chair: Kouroush Jenab (COBT)–Annie Adams (Regent)–Robert Boram (COS)–Nettie Brock (CAHS)–DuWayne Dale (CAHS)–L. Joe Dunman (CAHS)–Dirk Grupe (COS)–Ahmad Hassan (COBT)–David Eisenhour (COS)  
underlining indicates that the member was absent.

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**SUMMARY**

Minutes of the 2/24 meeting approved.

SGA President Emily Wiley and Kelton Crank are in attendance. They outline two proposals for Reading Days that the SGA would like. The first proposal is that the Thursday and Friday before finals week are “review days” in classes. The class would meet, and students would be expected to attend, but no assignments could be due. This is the proposal that the registrar and the provost suggest being the preferred option. The second proposal is that the Monday of finals day is a “dead day” where nothing happens. We discuss these two proposals. The first proposal seems to be the least doable. There would need to be a huge amount of definitions of terms as to what constitutes an “assignment,” plus labs and performances would still need to occur these two days. The confusion over what could be due and what would be forbidden seems like too much. Besides, would the students actually make use of these days as intended or just skip class and do whatever they want? Plus, is the problem really that assignments are due those days or that students are just postponing assignments until then? And would taking those days off help at all?

A Monday dead day seems like a much more tenable option. To do this, we would seriously have to consider pushing back move out; it looks like we are being told that option 1 is better because it does not require any additional money, not because it serves an academic objective. Extending the academic semester at the beginning of the semester to account for days off at the end does not seem doable, as the students would be upset. A question seems to be whether the students want to have a break before finals or if they simply want to be done with the semester sooner.

There is a lot of question as to the reasoning behind this and how other institutions are doing it. We fully support this measure and want to make it happen, but we would like to know what more of the students actually want and if the students realize that having a dead day on Monday would mean they would probably have to take more finals every day.

After the SGA reps left, we briefly discussed the 50% rule again. We are going to invite Laurie Couch to our next meeting to discuss this again. Senator Boram suggests that since each program already has clearly laid out outcomes, if those outcomes become the measure of the program, then the 50% rule does not need to be a thing. Any program variant would simply have to meet the outcomes. This does not need to be locked into any certain number

of classes, just whether or not the outcomes are met. This is something that we already have on record because we had to do it for SACSCOC. It clearly does work and can be an alternative for the 50% rule. Senator Boram has been elected to present this to Laurie Couch when she comes.

The provost is supposed to send out an email with a survey about classroom technology. As a connection to this issue, Senator Brock outlines an issue that students have been having with ebooks. Not only do they have to go into a different location than they previously had to and reset their entire account, but any ebooks that were housed through VitalSource have also been lost entirely, so the students have to contact VitalSource directly with their receipts and get VitalSource to retrieve their textbooks. This is a headache that has been ongoing since the bookstore switched hands. It seems like something that the students should not have to deal with. It seems to be yet another example of a system-wide problem of pushing back to making lower-level people (the students) deal with things that seemingly could be dealt with at a higher level.

Senator Brock sent out a link to a Sway she created that is a how-to for the new MyProgress App. This Sway should be going out in the next Provost email.

Could we possibly work with SGA and other people on campus to try to break the cycle of not making use of people who actually know how to do things (like faculty who can create easy-to-understand handouts or who understand classroom technology better than IT)?

Visiting Assistant Professors often get promoted to Tenure Track, and Chair Jenab asks if there is anything Academic Issues can do on this topic. We question what precisely the issue here is. There is a systemic problem with TT lines not being continued after a TT faculty member leaves the university. If they are continued, they are often transformed into VAP or instructor lines. This is a huge problem. What can we do about it?

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**ADJOURNMENT**     The meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm

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**NEXT MEETING**     TBA, via WebEx