

November 22, 2019

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Louis Santiago, Chair, Executive Committee  
College of Natural and Agricultural Science



Re: Final Exam Duration

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The CNAS Executive Committee discussed the possibility of changing the duration of final exams from three, to two hours. Some thought that the shorter qualifying exam duration would lower the quality of education and that it was simply not enough time. Some thought it was fine. Others thought that with the shorter exam time, that there would be more exams per day and potentially a greater possibility of a student having multiple exams on the same day. There was a general feeling that reading days are great. There was also a feeling that there should be some accommodation for students with multiple final exams scheduled on the same day.

Some looked deeper into the issue causing this change, which is, that the university has allowed student enrollment to grow beyond our capacity to conduct all of our academic activities within a normal schedule, and that changing final exam duration is a band-aid, but does not solve the larger problem of poor planning.

Others wondered whether undergraduates had an opportunity to provide input on this and that they should be given the opportunity because it mainly affects them. There was general discussion, but no resolution, on whether moving things back a day or so could alleviate the current scheduling issues.