



COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE

November 21, 2019

To: Dylan Rodriguez
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Abhijit Ghosh, Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare

Re: Proposed Change to Senate Regulation R1.8.1-Final Exam Duration

The Committee on Faculty Welfare has serious concerns on reducing the final exam time for all classes from 3 hours to 2 hours. There are some classes that require 3 hours to give a pedagogically sound exam. In addition, reducing the exam time would be especially detrimental for the disadvantaged students, and students whose first language is not English. Furthermore, shorter exams may cause students taking more final exams in a day compared to the previous system with longer exams, effectively increasing burden for the students.

The committee, however, recognizes the need for at least one full reading day for all students before final exam. Thus, we recommend no final exams on Saturday or Sunday, providing students with two full reading days. Furthermore, we recommend all final exams be scheduled only on weekdays during finals week. It is possible that 2-hour final exams may be acceptable to some instructors for certain courses. The committee recommends, therefore, that input from departments be sought to determine preferences for the duration of the final exam for each course to optimize scheduling of final exams.