

#308 October 12, 2011

Report for the Academic Programs Committee – Final Exam Schedule Recommendation-Senator David Stodden

The charge of the Academic Program Committee was to provide a recommendation regarding the final exam schedule for the 2012-2013 academic calendar. The original 11-member Ad Hoc Committee on the Academic Calendar proposed four initial options. The Academic Program Committee addressed the charge via multiple email communications. Initial input from the committee indicated a 4 – 2 vote in favor of option #2, which would reduce final exam times from 150 minutes to 120 minutes and reduce the number of days for finals to four instead of five. Many universities in the Big 12 have finals of 120 minutes or less. Option #2 also would allow the School of Music to participate in the Carol of Lights festivities. The two remaining votes cast were for option #3, which would discontinue the individual study day and keep the 150 minute exam times for five days. This option also would allow the School of Music to participate in the Carol of Lights festivities

Faculty Senator voiced several concerns about academic calendar changes including but not limited to the following issues:

- Adequate time for students to complete a final exam.
- The impact of eliminating the Day of Study.
- The impact of Carol of Lights on the academic mission of the University.
- The impact of this decision on all future semesters.
- The impact on students who would have to take more than 3 or more exams in one day.
- There were no further changes to votes or additional input from members of the committee. Thus, the final vote of the committee was 4 – 2 in favor of option #2.

There was considerable comment and discussion of the various calendar options. There was no consensus within the Senate as a whole in favor of the committee's recommendation. A motion to table was made by Senator Todd Chambers and seconded by Senator Arnold Loewy. The Faculty Senate Academic Programs Committee will seek more information and clarification on the Academic Calendar options.