

The **WORD**

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Who Knows?

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If the students do not know and the faculty does not know then who knows? Knows what? A proposal for finals being changed.

Professor Thomas originated the proposal and presented it to Division A who in turn presented the proposal to the head of the Academic Policy Committee (A.P.C.), Professor Herman Wentzel.

There was an open hearing held on November 6. How many students actually know that an open hearing means that they are invited to come? I did not. Only five students were present at this meeting, one of which was Paul Perseke, a student representative of the A.P.C.; there are two. Lester Wolfgram is the other but could not be present.

The proposal reads as follows:

New Academic Schedule and Calendar

Proposal 1: Final exams should be lengthened to 120 minutes.

Rationale:

1. Sufficient time would be provided for comprehensive exams. The present exam length of 100 minutes is not conducive to comprehensive testing, but encourages unit testing.
2. Students would have adequate time to think and write about course issues.
3. The present system would be simplified. Exams lasting 100 minutes are difficult to administer. They often begin and end at times that are hard to remember.
4. Students would be better prepared to take the longer exams required for professional certification and graduate study. These

usually require time management around a period of two or more hours.

5. Concordia's image as a four-year college with high academic standards would be enhanced. All other area colleges have standard exam lengths of two or more hours.

Proposal 2: the final exam period should be four days.

Rationale:

1. Better spacing of exams would be possible. Students should have no more than two exams a day.
2. Students would have more preparation time for exams.
3. Concordia's image as a college of high academic standards would be enhanced. Only one other area college has such an abbreviated exam period.

Proposal 3: A reading day should precede the final exam period.

Rationale:

1. Finals should be emphasized as a serious capstone experience, setting them apart from regular class periods.
2. Students would have more time to prepare for exams. The present system allows no time to study when the final class period and the first exam day are contiguous.
3. Concordia's image as a college of high academic standards would be enhanced. No other area college has the final class day contiguous to the final exam period.

Proposal 4: The first and second quarters should be separated by an academic recess of one week.

Rationale:

1. There would be a meaningful break between two quarters.
2. Faculty members would have more time to prepare for winter

quarter. Finishing fall quarter grading and preparing for winter quarter in four days is unrealistic.

Even though Perseke and four other students were present, I found a big communication gap between the students and the faculty. Here are two conflicting opinions:

Professor Wentzel

1) Wentzel thought that Leder was aware that there ought to be two student representatives on A.P.C.

2) Wentzel claims he did not receive any information on who the representatives were.

3) Wentzel sought out last years A.P.C. student representative Paul Perseke to be present at this years meetings.

Barry Leder, Student Senate President

1) Leder claims that there were two student representatives but at the time of speaking to Wentzel, he did not know who they were.

2) Director of Administrative Committees, claims to have sent Wentzel a letter naming the representatives. But also claims to have not checked up on Wentzel receiving the letter.

3) Perseke claims to have told Wentzel he was also the A.P.C. representative this year.

Even if there were not conflicting opinions formed, there is still no way that faculty or students had of presenting this proposal to the whole student body.

On November 13, the proposal was tabled by the requests of both the faculty and students. After all is said and done, it poses a question in ones mind. Who wanted this proposal tabled more; students or faculty?

This article was not meant to cause offense, it was however meant to start students and faculty thinking.

Who knows—what, if anything? ❀