SPRING 2018 FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE INFORMATION

The Spring Semester 2018 final exam dates are

Monday, May 7 through Friday, May 11, 2018.

Please read the below for information on the schedule of final exam times.

In response to a Final Exam Scheduling Optimization and Recommendations proposal,¹ the Faculty Senate has recently adopted a resolution for approval of the modification of the current final exam scheduling model.² The Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs concurs with the Faculty Senate and will be implementing this new model effective Spring 2018. This new model produces an optimized schedule minimizing the number of students who are required to take 3 or more final exams on the same day.

Actual student registration data for the current semester is used in this process to ensure the most efficient final exam schedule possible. The Final Exam Schedule will be available during the 4th week of the semester (February 5-9, 2018) and found here.

Course syllabi are to reflect a “to be announced” final exam date until that time and include the link (http://registrar.siu.edu/calendars/finalexam.php) to Final Exam Calendars maintained by the Office of the Registrar.

¹ The Final Exam Scheduling Optimization and Recommendations proposal is attached.
² The Faculty Senate’s resolution is attached.
Final Exam Scheduling Optimization and Recommendations
Professors: Steve Esling (CoS), James Mathias (CoEng) and Ken Anderson (CoS)

- Software tool for modelling and “optimization” of final exam schedule has been developed.
  - Utilizes student schedule information provided by Information Technology
- Optimal is defined as minimizing the number of students required to take 3 or more exams on the same day
- Conflicts are calculated based on class schedules only
  - Individual faculty may or may not actually require that students take a final exam at the prescribed time. Also includes Labs. So calculations may overestimate actual conflicts.
  - Does not consider evening classes or evening exams

![Graph showing comparison of actual, current, and optimal conflicts for Spring 2016 and Fall 2016]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Optimal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Optimal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>1696 (84)</td>
<td>1478 (52)</td>
<td>786 (7)</td>
<td>1688 (80)</td>
<td>1322 (35)</td>
<td>824 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Co-scheduling of Math and English Common exams** inherently increases conflicts by ~ 10%
- Scheduling these back-to-back (as in the current schedule) is absurd and counter productive

![Frequency distribution graph]

**Semester-to-semester scheduling**
- The % of students enrolled in classes in particular time slots varies only slightly between semesters
- However, applying an exam schedule optimized for one cohort to another results in an ~10% increase in conflicts
Recommendations:

• **Current scheduling model** is onerous for students and should be **abandoned**
  • Scheduling based on a random schedule model should be implemented asap, beginning with Spring 2018
    • Faculty will find their exams scheduled at different time from semester to semester

• **Math and English Common exams should be separated**
  • To be fair to the departments affected, scheduling of the Tuesday slot should be alternated between the Spring and Fall semesters
  • Extension of the deadline to turn in grades till Wednesday should have already alleviated any affect of time allowed for grading

• **Accommodation should be allowed for students with 4 exams scheduled in one day (current policy) and students with 3 exams scheduled back to back to back in one day (not current policy)**

**Calculation of the optimal schedule** can be accomplished in either of two ways:

1. Use data for the **current** semester
   • Gives the most optimal result (minimizes exam conflicts for the current cohort)
   • Requires that registration data be available
   • **Schedule not available until ~ 4th week of the semester**
   • Requires a **change in policy**

2. Use data for the **prior** (equivalent, S/S or F/F) semester
   • Gives **sub-optimal result - Students disadvantaged**
   • Data readily available well in advance of the semester
   • **Schedule can be published prior to the beginning of the semester**

Pros and cons to both options
Choice of option requires faculty input (Faculty Senate)
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Resolution to Recommend Approval of the Proposal for Modification of the Final Exam Schedule

WHEREAS the current final exam schedule is unnecessarily burdensome for students; and

WHEREAS faculty have developed software tools for optimizing the final exam schedule which assists in identifying and minimizing the number of scheduling conflicts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends:

1. the current fixed final exam schedule be abandoned.

2. scheduling based on a random schedule model (optimized to minimize the number of instances when students are required to take 3 or more final exams on the same day) should be implemented as quickly as possible, beginning with Spring 2018.

3. the final exam accommodation policy should be modified such that students whose schedules require more than 3 final exams to be taken in the same day and students whose final exam schedule requires them to take 3 exams scheduled back to back may request an accommodation.

4. that Option #1, as provided on the Final Exam Scheduling Optimization and Recommendation Proposal (use data for the current semester), be the method to calculate the optimal final exam schedule.

FS1807

Date of Resolution Approval: 10/17/2017

Semester: FALL

10/19/2017

Date

President, Faculty Senate