

A Resolution to Amend the University Reading Day Policy

Emily Needham (for themselves, Brandon Bishop, Maddie Carson, Caleb Hineman, Claire Krafka, Durya Nadeem, Sana Soufi, and Troy Tofil) introduced the following legislation to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas a “student-centered learning experience” is part of the *Teaching and Learning Core Academic Goals* adopted by the Ohio State University Office of Academic Affairs,¹ and

Whereas when surveyed, undergraduate students at The Ohio State University expressed that an additional reading day would have a significant positive impact on overall exam performance, as this would provide students with adequate preparation time for exams and the ability to gain a sufficient amount of sleep, and²

Whereas studies have shown that inadequate sleep, such as that afforded to students with an insufficient reading period, is associated “with slowed reaction time...compromised memory and [compromised] learning,”³ and inadequate sleep levels due to cramming for exams have also been proven to produce lower test scores,⁴ and

Whereas student performance on exams is linked to a student’s mental health⁵ and test anxiety associated with little time to properly prepare for said exams, leaving students feeling anxious and overwhelmed, and

Whereas improving student exam performance will improve academic performance on exams university-wide, in addition to promoting the mental health of all students, and

¹ <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

² <https://osu.box.com/v/readingsurveyresults>

³ [https://www.sleephealthjournal.org/article/S2352-7218\(14\)00011-4/pdf](https://www.sleephealthjournal.org/article/S2352-7218(14)00011-4/pdf)

⁴ <https://hbr.org/2009/10/dont-overwork-your-brain>

⁵ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07448481.1992.9936283>

Whereas a protected reading period is intended to offer students time to revise, reflect, and review material learned throughout the semester before the final examination period begins, and

Whereas fellow big ten schools Rutgers⁶ and Northwestern⁷ have adopted extended reading period policies, allowing their students protected time in which they are afforded space to review course material without mandatory instruction time or required assignments, and

Whereas several universities within the state of Ohio, such as the University of Cincinnati⁸ and Case Western Reserve University,⁹ have also implemented extended reading period policies offering their students two protected reading days per semester, and

Whereas the Ohio State University academic calendar has traditionally included one reading day per full academic term, and the current University Reading Day Policy does not specify the number of protected reading days that may be offered to undergraduate students.¹⁰

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government recommends amending final examination reading day policy to include one additional reading day, resulting in the Wednesday and Thursday before the final exam period begins being recognized as an official reading period, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government recommends no regular instruction take place—with the exception of optional exam review sessions—during the protected reading period, no course assignments be due during the protected reading period, and no examinations—both in person, take home, or online—be due or administered during the protected reading period.

Floor Vote: Aye: 31 Nay: 0 Present: 31

⁶ <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/exam-scheduling/final-exam-policies>

⁷ <https://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/courses-registration-grades/reading-period.html>

⁸ https://www.uc.edu/registrar/policies_and_procedures/reading_days.html

⁹ <https://case.edu/registrar/dates-deadlines/academic-calendar/academic-calendar-construction-rules>

¹⁰ <https://trustees.osu.edu/university-faculty-rules/3335-8> (Chapter 3335-8-35: “University Year.”)


Kathleen Greer

President

Date Adopted: 9-25-19


Cade Santha

Speaker of the 52nd General Assembly

Date Terminated: _____