October 22, 2019

To: Senate

From: School of Business Administration Executive Committee

Re: [Campus Review] Proposed Regulation Change: Senate Regulation R1.8.1-Final Exam Duration. Distributed for Review: 10/15/19

The School of Business Executive Committee has the following concerns raised by faculty members.

1. While there are good arguments being offered for reducing the final duration to two hours, some faculty members teach large classes with more than 250 students. Because it is a big class, it usually takes about 10-15 minutes to set up for the exam (making sure everyone arrived, distributing the exam with multiple versions and making sure everyone gets the right version, etc.). One faculty member suggested a reduction to 2.5 hours to accommodate large classes that require additional setup time for the exam. Another option might be to institute a process by which instructors or courses can obtain standing exemptions from the 2-hour upper limit and have a different duration ceiling.

2. Some professors may offer a case exam, where a student has to read a business case and answer questions related to it. As some students, particularly international students, may need more time to read the case, a higher cap such as three hours may be warranted in such cases in order to prevent the exam from becoming a test of reading proficiency as opposed to proficiency in the subject matter. Providing the case beforehand for case exams has become a problem, particularly with online cheating resources such as Coursehero. Again, it might be helpful to have a process by which instructors or courses offering case exams can obtain standing exemptions from the 2-hour upper limit and have a different duration ceiling.

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