SCEP proposes longer exam period

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Recommended that another experimental reading-end exam period be tried this term. Under this proposal, classes would end on a Friday, with Saturday through Monday as a Reading Period. Exams Tuesday through Friday, Saturday and Sunday as Regular Period, then exams Monday through Friday. Exams would be held only in the afternoons. Presumably, this system would allow enough flexibility in scheduling to give, effectively, a lengthened Reading Period plan the assurance that a student would have no more than one exam per day.

Views of CAP

When asked about the SCEP report, Jack Bailey, Director of Student Aid, and a member of CAP, admitted that he had not yet formulated an opinion about Reading Period changes. However, he noted that even a cursory glance at the report strengthened his belief that the "opinion of the students is a meaningful thing and ought not to be treated lightly." Professor Potter, another CAP member, expressed approval in principle to SCEP for the report. He was unsure that no better input was available and that only one third of the students responded. In particular, he sought a controlled experiment on the validity of the various proposals, in addition to student opinions.

Professor Griffith explained that he favored the idea of an extended Reading Period, but added that this was a purely personal decision. He explained that in the past he had found it necessary to allow students a period of Reading Period for presentation of projects. Professor Griffith added, "I wouldn't mind having a week there -- but that's out of the question!"

Professor Hartley explained his interpretation of the SCEP report -- its "clear to me" that the students are more concerned with the problems of two exams in a single day than with an extended Reading Period.

Beyond the computer

Nevertheless, he expressed doubts that the problem could be solved by the addition to student opinions. He explained that, in his own case, he found it necessary to allow students a period of Reading Period for presentation of projects. Professor Griffith added, "I wouldn't mind having a week there -- but that's out of the question!"

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