

**University of Windsor
Senate Student Caucus**

5.2: **Student-raised Questions**

Item for: **Discussion**

1. Mid-term exams: While we schedule final exams so that no more than 2 are on any particular calendar day, no such rule applies to mid-term exams. It is in fact possible to have 4 exams on the same day, which results in students having to pick which courses to study for and which to not prepare for. This is particularly impactful for those that need to maintain high averages to keep their scholarships or prepare for graduate study (*e.g.*, medical students). While not presented as the solution, one suggestion could be to ask faculty with odd number courses to schedule their exams on Monday/Tuesday and even numbered courses on Wednesday/Thursday. This would need to be looked into further to determine feasibility and how it would work with existing course schedules. There may be other solutions as well.
2. Final exams: Current policy is that a student who has more than 2 finals exam scheduled in a calendar day may apply to have one of the exams moved to another exam date. Could there be consideration of changing this to 2 within 24 hours?
3. Too much weight given to early assessments: grading schemes with 25/25/50 create a sizable weighting to the first mark, before students have a clear sense as to the instructor's marking style. Could a lighter weighting for the first markable activity, especially for first year courses, be considered? Possibly 15/15/50 with the remainder for quizzes, participation *et al.*
4. Instructor evaluations: Students do not always see any value in this exercise. It is claimed that most students use <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/> to get information on instructors.
5. Some exams changing little over time: It is claimed that there are a number of courses in which exams change little over time and for which it is easy to Google one question and get the full exam. While there may be some reason for not changing exams, this could be an academic integrity challenge.