

Monthly Report to the Secretary of Faculty Senate

Date: December 3, 2024

The Curriculum and Planning Committee met on November 20, 2024, to deliberate on Proposition 03-24/25.

Summary of the Proposition

The proposal aims to amend NMSU ARP 4.50 by clarifying that the requirement for scheduling an exam or culminating activity during the final exam week does not apply to:

- Undergraduate or graduate-level independent study or research courses.
- Courses that are worth only one credit hour.

During the meeting held on October 10, the committee determined that there were several questions regarding the proposal that required clarification from the sponsors. The volume of inquiries was significant; consequently, the committee chose not to accept the proposal in its current form.

Summary Points

- The proposed amendment could be interpreted in varying ways regarding what qualifies as "independent study or research." This might lead to inconsistencies.
- Are there any other unique course structures that may also warrant exclusion from this requirement and are not mentioned?
- Misalignment with program goals occurs if courses are excluded from final week activities, which might impact program cohesion if some students have significantly different assessment timelines than others.
- How would this apply to online courses?
- Lack of Definition for "Independent Study or Research". The term is not clearly defined, which could lead to varied interpretations and inconsistent implementation across departments.
- Mentioned in the rationale, supplemental instruction might still require structured evaluations, which the exemption overlooks

During the November 20, 2024, meeting, M. Burkhardt (NTT), the sponsor, was present and provided clarifications regarding the questions raised in the October meeting. Prior to the November meeting, K. Finlator (A&S) submitted a comprehensive explanation and rationale. The Curriculum and Planning Committee voted in favor of the proposed addendum, resulting in 7

votes in favor and one member absent out of a total of 9 members.

Voted Addendum

Normally, every class meets at least 750 minutes per credit hour. The University Student Records Office will schedule the sixteenth week of instruction of each regular semester in 2-hour blocks. These blocks may count toward the 750-minute minimum per credit hour if necessary, or it may

exceed the 750-minute rule. In either case, the exam week class time is not optional and must be used for some culminating activity, whether or not the instructor requires a final exam. The requirement that instructors must schedule an exam or culminating activity during final exam week does not apply to in-person courses associated with undergraduate or graduate-level independent study or research, laboratory or experiential learning, or supplemental instruction courses.

The committee found the rationale for the proposition well-explained and thoroughly documented. As a result, the committee members voted unanimously in favor of the proposition, and no further discussion was held.

Sincerely,

Gus Piña
Chair, Curriculum and Planning Committee