

Curriculum and Planning Report for October 10, 2024

The committee met to discuss Proposition 03-24/25. While a consensus was reached, there was some confusion regarding the terminology used in the proposition. The committee felt that the current wording makes it difficult to fully understand the underlying needs. Since there were no sponsors present to clarify various questions, the committee voted against the proposition in its current form. As a result, it recommends that the sponsors either revise the proposition to include necessary corrections and clarifications or present it at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting to engage the larger faculty community. Below are the notes and summary from the meeting:

Notes from October 10, 2024, Meeting

Proposition: 03-24/25

Summary of the Proposition

The proposal seeks to amend NMSU ARP 4.50 by elucidating that the stipulation requiring the scheduling of an examination or culminating activity during the final exam week does not apply to:

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

Proposed Amendment to ARP 4.50

“The requirement that instructors must schedule an exam or culminating activity during final exam week does not pertain to courses related to undergraduate or graduate-level independent study or research, nor to courses carrying a credit value of only one credit hour.”

Current Language of ARP 4.50 (<https://arp.nmsu.edu/chapter-4/4-50.html>)

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.

Summary Points

- If the proposition is to incorporate a hyperlink, this link must be functional; the current link within the proposition fails to operate.
- The proposed amendment could be interpreted in varying ways regarding what qualifies as "independent study or research." This might lead to inconsistencies.
- Consideration should be given to whether other distinct course structures may also merit exclusion from this requirement but are not currently addressed.
- 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.
- Clarification is needed on how this amendment will 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.
- As indicated in the rationale, supplemental instruction may necessitate structured evaluations, which this exemption fails to account for.

Committee Vote:

In favor of the proposition as written: 2/8

Not in favor as written: 6/8

Abstentions: 0