



Gonzaga Student Body Association
Senate
2016-2017

April 10th, 2017

Bill: SRSD032204

Sponsor: Fiona Sutherland, Business Administration Senator.

Co-Sponsors: Sophia Troeh, School of Arts & Sciences Senator; Kau‘i Ho‘opi‘i, School of Education Senator; Isabelle Lada, School of Nursing and Human Physiology; Joshua Budig, School of Engineering and Applied Science; Molly Wilson, Arts & Sciences Senator.

Title: *Dead Week* Reevaluation

Purpose: This resolution provides evidence to support the enforcement of Gonzaga’s current “*Dead Week*” policy which places a moratorium on faculty assigned tests, projects or homework assignments worth more than ten percent of a student’s overall grade without initial notification in the Syllabus.

Text:

- 1.) Section 1: Whereas, the results of the 2015-2016 **Faculty Dead Week Survey** found that “32.06% of faculty assign assignments worth more than 10% of a student’s overall grade the week prior to finals.” Assignments of such value can prohibit a student’s preparation for finals and create an overwhelming course load.
- 2.) Section 2: Whereas, a dead week policy would be readily enforceable if a platform were incorporated into the teacher evaluations that permitted student feedback with regards to professor designated assignments during the dead week period.

- 3.) Section 3: Whereas, the *ten percent policy* currently exists as an informal guideline that retains neither means of enforcement nor uniform adherence amongst faculty. Faculty are free to implement or ignore the policy on a case by case basis. Moreover, oft-spread rumor regarding the existence of a functional *ten percent policy* remains unsubstantiated, and only serves to spread confusion among students whom are assigned subject assessment the week before finals and are unable to obtain any recourse.
- 4.) Section 5: Whereas, the results of a **2005 Student Dead Week Survey** revealed that “given the option, 42% of the student body would rather complete their finals during the formally assigned date by the university,” as opposed to the week before finals.
- 5.) Section 6: Therefore, GSBA strongly recommends the reinstatement of the *Dead Week* policy, with special emphasis on the moratorium on assigned tests, projects and homework worth ten percent or more of a student's class grade the week before finals.
- 6.) Section 7: Therefore, GSBA recommends the inclusion of the following question to the Teacher Evaluations as a means of acquiring student feedback and proposing an additional means of policy enforcement:

“Did my professor designate the submission of a test, project, or homework assignment worth ten percent or more of my class grade the week before finals?”
- 8.) Section 8: Therefore, GSBA recommends that faculty continue the practice of reserving time on the first official day of class to review the Syllabus, while providing clear written and oral expectations with regards to assignments due throughout the course.
- 9.) Section 9: Therefore, GSBA recommends the implementation of a clause to address longstanding traditions of respective faculty in assigning major projects the week before finals. The clause shall allow for the designation of assignments worth more than ten percent of a student's grade the week before finals as long as the professor clearly delineates the project requirements and deadline on the syllabus during the first official week of classes.
- 10.) Section 10: Therefore, GSBA recommends that faculty members who have traditionally designated assignments worth more than ten percent of the class grade shall have a grading rubric posted on their respective web pages no later than the third official class week.

President

Speaker of the Senate