*Resolution on Final Grade Due Dates*

*Submitted by Senator Kensinger and Senator Henson*

Whereas course design and delivery is one of the most important obligations of the faculty,

Whereas due dates for grade submissions have a direct bearing on course design and delivery,

Whereas there has been a decrease in the time faculty have been granted to submit final grades,

Whereas course size and loads for faculty have been increasing over time,

Whereas course size has a direct bearing on the time needed to give grading of final assignments in courses the careful deliberation needed to fairly evaluate student work, particularly evident for lecturers who often face the daunting task of adequately evaluating final projects and exams for five separate courses,

Whereas due dates for final grades particularly impact courses that include significant writing requirements, such as graduate seminars, W courses, composition courses, and all courses where professors hope to improve student writing through substantial writing assignments,

Whereas due dates for final grades also impact ability to provide creative opportunities for students to complete original, engaged, semester length research projects, senior theses, and graduate theses, by reducing time for students to complete work and for faculty to assess work,

Whereas pedagogical discussion in some areas has supported a move to evaluate portfolio instruments where they fit in with programmatic curricular goals, involving intensive and careful deliberation of an entire semester of work, again increasing workload demands on faculty at the end of the semester,

Whereas faculty must work final grades around other competing professional demands often due during the same time of year (such as letters of recommendation, personnel committees, search committees, end year reports, professional conferences, new syllabus and course development, graduate thesis review obligations, graduation activities, etc.),

Whereas grade due dates before January 1st for fall semester put an undue burden on both staff, who may be required to come in and process grades during days campus is officially closed, and faculty, who are required to complete large amounts of work over the period when campus is officially closed,

Whereas grade due dates before January 1st for the fall semester make it harder to accommodate students with late projects, increasing potential for course failure and declines in student success rates,

Whereas arguments given for grade due dates have often emphasized data processing needs not curricular or pedagogical quality, therefore be it

Resolved that Academic Senate of the California State University, Fresno requires that the academic calendar at the local level ideally never set that final grade due dates for fall semester sooner than January 2nd, and be it further

Resolved that the Academic Senate of the California State University, Fresno finds in both spring and fall semester the CSU Fresno academic calendar should provide no fewer than eight working week-days, [[1]](#footnote-1) and, ideally, ten working week-days between the day after the last day of finals and the dates that grades are due, and be it further

Resolved that the Academic Senate calls on the appropriate administrative bodies to work with the Senate leadership and appropriate committees toward implementing these recommendations, including explaining any potential unanticipated negative impacts, particularly those on students, and working toward implementation solutions that will mitigate such problems while still making progress on implementation of this resolution’s goals; and be it finally

Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the CSU Fresno Provost, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, all CSU Fresno Deans, and all CSU Fresno Department and Program Chairs.

1. A working week-day in this document is defined as Monday through Friday, and excludes Saturday, Sunday, official holidays, or days campus is officially closed. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)