STATEMENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REGARDING SCHEDULING OF FINAL EXAMS

As a result of student complaints about being overwhelmed at the “crunch time” at the end of the semester, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee has reviewed existing procedures for the scheduling of final exams and other cumulative graded exercises. Exams during the official final examination period are scheduled by the Registrar with the intent of allowing study time and minimizing conflicts. When instructors choose instead to schedule final exercises during class time, students frequently find themselves with multiple exams on the same day, or final graded exercises in all of their courses occurring within a space of just a few days. A student in such a position is unable to engage in reflective, cumulative review of the material in an orderly fashion, and so is disadvantaged both educationally and in terms of grades.

The UCC respects the right of faculty to design their courses and their evaluation exercises as they see fit, but is also concerned that individual faculty may not take into account the negative consequences of their scheduling decisions on students’ ability to handle their overall course load. For this reason, the Committee urges all faculty not to schedule in-class graded exercises during the last week of classes. Wherever possible, final exams should be held during the official examination period, and other exams, “midterms,” take-home exams or quizzes should be completed before the last week of classes begins.