Senate Committees

Report to the Teaching & Learning Policy Committee

Discussion Item

Topic: Tests and Exams in the Final Two Weeks of the Term

Date of Meeting: October 6, 2026

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1. Purpose of the Report

- To invite a discussion concerning the policy that limits the weight of tests and exams scheduled during the final two weeks of the term.

2. Background

- Brock University's Faculty Handbook stipulates the following:
    - *Only under extenuating circumstances, with permission of the Dean, will class tests or examinations worth more than 5 percent of the course grade be permitted in the final two weeks of each term. (FHB III A.9.1.8.C)*
- In recent terms, Deans' offices have seen an increasing number of requests from instructors seeking to slightly increase the weight of tests or examinations scheduled during the final weeks of the term (e.g., up to 10%). Most of these requests reflect changes made to assessment methods, which may include in-class writing assignments and oral assessments, to mitigate the threat to academic integrity of the unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence.
- Although the relevant section of the Faculty Handbook (Examinations) falls within the purview of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee (USAC), we wish to

engage in a discussion with members of the Senate Teaching and Learning Policy Committee concerning the current academic policy, prior to advancing this discussion at USAC.