Senate Committees

Report to the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee

Discussion Item

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

Date of Meeting: November 20, 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.
- Following an initial discussion with members of the Teaching & Learning Policy Committee in October and further consultations with units including the Office of the

Registrar and Student Accessibility Services, we now seek a discussion with members of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee (USAC), as the relevant section of the Faculty Handbook (III A.9. Examinations) falls within the purview of USAC.