



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	3/17/2016
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #49
 Reducing Academic Work Assigned Over Break

ABSTRACT: This resolution requests that faculty members not assign work over academic breaks.

Sponsored by: Justin Selig '17, Dale Barbaria '19, Gabe Kaufman '18

Whereas, according to Article II of the Student Assembly Charter, the Student Assembly has “the authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student community and to make proposals concerning those issues to the appropriate officers or decision-making bodies of the University;” and

Whereas, an excessive academic workload has a direct impact on the mental health and general welfare of the undergraduate student body; and

Whereas, the Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee created and distributed a survey to determine the scope of work being given over break, and found over forty-five credible examples of work being given to students in six of the seven undergraduate colleges and in the following courses: CS 2110, CHEM 3570, CHEM 4100, MATH 2220, MATH 2310, ECON 3040, ENG 2880, SPAN 1230, HADM 3210, HADM 3650, FDSC 2100, PHYS 2208, PHYS 2214, SOC 1101, BME 4110, DEA 3310, BIOMG 3300, BSOC 2468, INFO 3300, SYSEN 5300, NTRES 3320, ANSC 2210;

Whereas, Faculty Senate Resolution 8 (AY 2010-2011) states, “Be it resolved, in keeping with the sense of the Senate on this issue, that while students are always expected to be prepared for class, framing assignments in such a way that necessitates academic work over Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break or Spring Break is strongly discouraged. Students should be given sufficient time to carry out assignments and prepare for classes without being required to devote their breaks to such preparation...Be it further resolved that the Dean of the Faculty shall remind the faculty in the beginning of the semester reminder [sic] not to frame assignments that necessitate academic work over scheduled breaks;” and

Be the therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly requests that members of the faculty abide by the 2011 Faculty Senate resolution and refrain from assigning work to students over academic breaks (Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break, February Break, and Spring Break); and

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and enforce stronger language in the Faculty Handbook against assigning work over break; and

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Faculty Senate establish an ongoing reporting system for faculty members who violate this policy, and that this reporting system be housed within the Office of the Dean of Faculty

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Dean of Faculty, the Faculty Senate, and the Department Chairs; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Student Assembly request the Dean of Faculty respond to this resolution within thirty days;

Respectfully Submitted,

- 50 Shreya Mantrala '18
51 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*
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53 Dale Barbaria '19
54 *Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
55 Gabe Kaufman '18
56 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee*
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58 Raghav Batra '19
59 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*
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61 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, March 13, 2016)*