



From: Nicolai Petrovsky, associate professor, Martin School of Public Policy & Administration
To: Senate Council
Date: January 13, 2016
Re: Asking for one-time permission to hold Master's defenses one day later than allowed by the academic calendar

Dear Members of the Senate Council,

The University of Kentucky's academic calendar (<http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/spring-2016-semester>) sets Thursday, April 21, 2016 as the **Last day for candidates for a May 2016 degree to sit for a final examination**. For Master's degree candidates in Martin School of Public Policy & Administration, the defense of the Capstone project serves as the final examination. We always hold these defenses for all students on the same day or set of days, as late in the semester as possible. Each defense involves three faculty members and a practitioner.

As this year's graduating class is large (about 30), it will not be feasible to schedule everyone on April 21. Therefore, some defenses would most likely have to be held one day before or after. As it will be less difficult to get faculty and practitioners to participate on a Friday than on a Wednesday, we would like to have the option to hold some defenses on Friday, April 22, 2016. Any student with a conflict on April 22 would be scheduled on April 21.

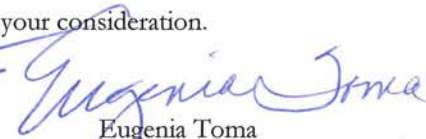
Per Senate Council rule 2.1.3.B, the Senate Council can make minor changes in a University Calendar such as the academic calendar. I would like to request such a change, namely to give one-time permission to the Martin School of Public Policy & Administration to hold some of our Master's defenses on Friday, April 22, 2016.

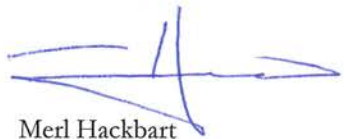
The Registrar's Office and Brian Jackson, chair of the Graduate Council, both have confirmed that there are no problems with this request. Their responses are attached. The Martin School students have been informed by email about the need to potentially hold defenses across two days by our Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Genia Toma on December 15, 2015 at 2:56pm. This email includes a clear statement that we will offer accommodation to all students with a conflict. This email is also attached. At this time, no student has indicated a conflict.

If this request were not approved, we would likely have to hold some defenses on Wednesday, April 20, which would adversely affect those students as their preparation time would be shortened. It would also make it more difficult to schedule faculty, as Wednesday is a core teaching day, whereas Friday is not.

Thank you very much for your consideration.


Nicolai Petrovsky


Eugenia Toma
Director of Graduate Studies
(Master's programs)


Merl Hackbart
Interim Director of the Martin
School

From: [Timoney, David M](#)
To: [Petrovsky, Nicolai](#)
Subject: RE: Reply requested: Martin School Master's defenses
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 3:32:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Nicolai,

On behalf of the Registrar's Office, I see no objections to this as long as all of the students agree to this additional date. I also want to express my support of the official approval process of the Senate.

Thank you,

David

David M. Timoney

Associate Registrar for Communications

University of Kentucky

12C Funkhouser Building

Lexington, KY 40506-0054

Phone: 859-257-8724

Fax: 859-257-9200

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see blue.



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From: Petrovsky, Nicolai
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 11:23 AM
To: Timoney, David M
Subject: Reply requested: Martin School Master's defenses

Dear David,

I'm an associate professor in the Martin School of Public Policy & Administration, and responsible for our Master's students' Capstone projects. We met in mid-December. At that time, I told you about the Martin School's repeated efforts to get confirmation that we would be allowed, if needed, to hold the defenses of our Master's students Capstone projects not only on Thursday, April 21 (per the academic calendar, the last day to hold a program final examination for graduating students) but also on Friday, April 22. The reason for requesting this is that our graduating class is unusually large and I don't think it will be possible to have enough faculty to do all defenses on one day.

During our meeting, I learned that our staffs' multiple attempts at communication about this issue had not received a response because a Senate Council staff member had raised concerns (though not to the Martin School). During our in-person meeting, I first learned about these concerns. The Senate Council staff member is correctly reading the University's rules, so I have to go through a formal process to request a one-day extension to the April 21 deadline for our Master's defenses.

During our meeting, you suggested that the Registrar's office would have no problem with a one-day extension.

Would you mind replying to this email confirming that there are no concerns from the point of view of the Registrar's office? If you would like to discuss further, I'm happy to make an appointment with you.

I'm terribly sorry to bother you with this, but we have to follow the University's process, and have to do so in an expeditious manner to reduce the uncertainty all this has caused our students.

Thank you so much.

Best wishes,

Nicolai Petrovsky
Associate Professor, Martin School, University of Kentucky
<http://www.petrovsky.ws/>

From: [Jackson, Brian A](#)
To: [Petrovsky, Nicolai](#)
Cc: [Toma, Eugenia F](#)
Subject: RE: Martin School Capstone defenses
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 7:16:08 PM

Hi Nicolai:

The Graduate School has no concerns whatsoever with the Martin School holding some capstone defenses on April 22nd.

Very best,

Brian

Brian A. Jackson, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean
The Graduate School
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0033

Tel: 859.257.7126
E-mail: brian.jackson@uky.edu
Web: www.gradschool.uky.edu

From: Petrovsky, Nicolai
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 2:21 PM
To: Jackson, Brian A
Cc: Toma, Eugenia F
Subject: Martin School Capstone defenses

Dear Brian,

My name is Nicolai Petrovsky. I'm an associate professor in the Martin School. This year, I'm responsible for our Master's students' Capstone projects. We normally hold the Capstone defenses in the third week of April. The Capstone defenses serve as the final comprehensive exams for our Master's program. This year, we have a large group of students, and so we can't hold all defenses on the same day. The academic calendar sets April 21 as the last day to hold final exams for graduating students. The Martin School would like to have the option to hold some defenses on April 22.

In the past, we had gotten informal approval for this, but a Senate Council staff member has informed us that we have to gain formal approval from the Senate Council. For the approval it would be necessary for you to reply to this email stating that the Graduate School has no concerns about the Martin School holding some of our Master's defenses on April 22.

If you agree that the Graduate School has no concerns about the Martin School holding some Master's defenses on April 22, would you mind replying to this email saying so?

If you would like to discuss any concerns, I'm more than happy to meet with you or talk over the phone. Please just let me know.

For your information, at the bottom of this email I have pasted the draft request to the Senate Council.

My colleagues and I are terribly sorry to waste your time with such a matter but the Martin School has to follow the rules.

Best wishes,

Nicolai Petrovsky
Associate Professor, Martin School, University of Kentucky
<http://www.petrovsky.ws/>

DRAFT

From: Nicolai Petrovsky, associate professor, Martin School of Public Policy & Administration
To: Senate Council
Date: January XX, 2016
Re: Asking for one-time permission to hold Master's defenses one day later than allowed by the academic calendar

Dear Members of the Senate Council,

The University of Kentucky's academic calendar (<http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/spring-2016-semester>) sets Thursday, April 21, 2016 as the **Last day for candidates for a May 2016 degree to sit for a final examination**. For Master's degree candidates in Martin School of Public Policy & Administration, the defense of the Capstone project serves as the final examination. We always hold these defenses for all students on the same day or set of days, as late in the semester as possible. Each defense involves three faculty members and a practitioner.

As this year's graduating class is large (about 30), it will not be feasible to schedule everyone on April 21. Therefore, some defenses would most likely have to be held one day before or after. As it will be less difficult to get faculty and practitioners to participate on a Friday than on a Wednesday, we would like to have the option to hold some defenses on Friday, April 22, 2016.

Any student with a conflict on April 22 would be scheduled on April 21.

Per Senate Council rule 2.1.3.B, the Senate Council can make minor changes in a University Calendar such as the academic calendar. I would like to request such a change, namely to give one-time permission to the Martin School of Public Policy & Administration to hold some of our Master's defenses on Friday, April 22, 2016.

PENDING: [The Registrar's Office and Brian Jackson, chair of the Graduate Council, both have confirmed that there are no problems with this request.] The Martin School students have been informed by email about the need to potentially hold defenses across two days by our Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Genia Toma on December 15, 2015 at 2:56pm. This email includes a clear statement that we will offer accommodation to all students with a conflict. This email is attached. At this time, no student has indicated a conflict.

If this request were not approved, we would likely have to hold some defenses on Wednesday, April

20, which would adversely affect those students as their preparation time would be shortened.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

[SIGNATURES GO HERE]

Nicolai Petrovsky

Martin

Eugenia Toma

Director of Graduate Studies

(Master's programs)

Merl Hackbart

Interim Director of the

School

From: [Martin School MPA Student list](#) on behalf of [Toma, Eugenia F](#)
To: MSMPA@LSV.UKY.EDU
Subject: spring capstones
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 2:55:59 PM

Dear prospective Capstone writers,

I'm excited to work with all of you on the best set of Capstones yet. I would like to give you a heads-up about the scheduling of the Capstone defenses. As your group is so large, we may have to hold them over two days, as opposed to all on one day.

The main Capstone defense day will be on Thursday, April 21. We may also need to hold some defenses on Friday, April 22.

I want to clarify two items about this:

- 1) Other courses do not hold final exams on any of the Capstone defense days.
- 2) If you have a job interview on one of the Capstone defense day or other important issue (medical procedure, childbirth etc.), Jackie and I will work with you to schedule your Capstone defense during a slot that works.

Thank you for your time and all the best for your exams and paper presentations before the holidays.

Best wishes,

Nicolai Petrovsky
Associate Professor, Martin School, University of Kentucky
<http://www.petrovsky.ws/>

Eugenia F. Toma
Wendell H. Ford Professor of Public Policy
Martin School of Public Policy & Administration
University of Kentucky
Lexington KY 40506
859-257-1156