

Proposal To Change the Name of “Dead Week”  
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As we are all aware, mental health has become a high priority for our university. The number of suicides is increasing and a number of these happen around finals week. Out of respect for the family members and university community members who are experiencing horrible grief due to the loss of someone, we are proposing that the name “dead week” be changed to something more appropriate and more positive. This was specifically brought to my attention by a colleague who indicated that they changed the name “dead week” for this same reason at her previous institution in Texas. A brief benchmarking exercise indicated that a variety of titles are used for the week before finals at other institutions.

This idea was introduced briefly at an Associate Deans’ meeting prior to the holiday break and was discussed in more detail at a recent meeting on January 19. There was unanimous support to change the name. At the meeting yesterday, we brainstormed on possible names and took a poll on the most popular choice. Suggested names included Study Week, Prep Week, Prefinals Week, Review Week and PAWse Week. Both Prep Week and PAWse Week were supported.

After discussing with the Senate Council and the students serving on the Council, the preferred name was Prep Week.

The only concern expressed about changing the name was that depending on the name chosen, students may not understand that classes are still in session during that week. However, it was acknowledged that this is an issue even with the name “dead week” and we need to make sure as we do now, that the description of the week is clear to students, staff and faculty.

In summary, we would like to propose that the name “Dead Week” be changed to “Prep Week” throughout the entire Senate Rules (not just 5.2.5.6). The description of Prep Week will remain the same as the description of Dead Week with the proposed Reading Days incorporated into this week.