

Rutgers University Senate
Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee
Response to Charge A-1301
March 2013

Charge A-1301 - Extension of the Fall 2013 Add/Drop Period: Respond to Executive Vice President Edwards' [Memo of March 1, 2013](#), requesting that the Senate extend the Fall 2013 add/drop period because of the occurrence of the two-day Jewish Holiday of Rosh Hashanah early in the first week of the semester.

Background

This charge was issued to ASRAC at the Senate Executive Committee Meeting on March 15, 2013, and we were asked to consider it on an expedited basis. We have done so via e-mail and have reached a clear consensus on our recommendation.

The Fall 2013 drop/add period is currently scheduled to start on Tuesday, September 3 (the first day of the semester) and end on Tuesday September 10 (to drop) or Wednesday, September 11 (to add). Rosh Hashanah will start at sundown on Wednesday, Sept. 4, and end at sundown on Friday, Sept. 6. If the add/drop period is not extended, therefore, observant Jewish students will be unable to attend a meeting of a course that meets only on Wednesday evening or anytime on Thursday or Friday before having to make a decision about dropping or adding the course.

Committee Considerations

ASRAC considered four possible recommendations with respect to the requested extension of the fall 2013 drop and add periods.

1. Extending both the drop and the add periods through Friday, September 13th.
2. Extending the drop period through Friday, Sept. 13th and the add period through Monday, September 16th.
3. Extending the drop period through Thursday, September 12th and the add period through Friday, Sept. 13th.
4. Leaving the add/drop period as currently scheduled and making exceptions for observant Jewish students on a case by case basis.

We quickly rejected the last option because we agreed with EVP Edwards that the large number of Rutgers students (and faculty and staff) who celebrate Rosh Hashanah would make it very difficult to handle requests for exceptions to the add and drop deadlines on an individual basis.

We rejected option 1 because we believe it is important that the add period be longer than the drop period so that students trying to get into closed sections of courses can take advantage of the space freed up when students who register for more courses than they actually plan to take are finally forced to drop the extra course or courses at the end of the drop period. On the other hand, we believe that extending the deadline to add courses through the end of the second full week of classes would be undesirable on pedagogical grounds, since students who add a course late in the current add/drop period (without attending the course or speaking with the instructor) seldom do well in the course and their late entry can be disruptive in some courses. So our consensus choice is option 3. We believe this option will serve the needs of the large majority of observant Jewish students and

that the very small number of such students who may, for some reason, need to drop a course after September 12th or add a course after September 13th, can be taken care of individually.

Recommendations

ASRAC therefore recommends to the Senate that for the fall 2013 semester only, the deadline for dropping a course be extended to Thursday, September 12, and the deadline for adding a course be extended to Friday, September 13.

In addition, we ask that the Administration remind all students of the academic dangers of entering a course very late and urge students to complete adding and/or dropping of courses as early as possible and to speak with the instructor if they must, for some reason, wait until late in the extended add/drop period to add a course.

Resolution

Whereas, ASRAC has carefully considered Executive Vice President Edwards' request to extend the fall 2013 add/drop period due to the very early occurrence of Rosh Hashanah this year and agreed that the period should be extended; and

Whereas ASRAC has considered a number of possible options for such an extension and recommends that both the drop and add periods be extended by two days; and

Whereas the University Senate has considered ASRAC's recommendations and rationale and finds them to be sound;

Therefore be it resolved, that the fall 2013 add/drop period be extended as follows:

Drop period: Tuesday, September 3 through Thursday, September 12

Add period: Tuesday, September 3 through Friday, September 13

Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee

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