

TO: All BYUI Faculty

You are aware that there will not be “test days” at the end of this Fall term. Classes should be held as scheduled through December 14. Even those who get permission to do final tests in the Testing Center are expected to hold classes.

We are getting some student requests to leave school early. The process of getting permission at the Academics office level was a good practice when we had a test week, but it is now unnecessary except where we might assist faculty in particularly difficult circumstances.

The new basic rule is that faculty and students should complete work for a course on the last day of the semester for the class. We ask that you clearly instruct students that they cannot leave prior to that time without consequences.

Requests to leave to attend premier showings of Lord of the Rings or take ocean cruises, even with family, are easy ones. It gets harder in the cases of weddings for students or the siblings of those getting married. In cases where you think some flexibility might be warranted, please contact me and we can discuss it. I’m sure we could do something in the case of serious illness, injury or death. Once a decision is reached, preferably by you, you can inform the student or I will at your request. There would be no need for the student to come to the Kimball seeking permission.

The most difficult position for a teacher is the student who says, “All my other teachers have said it is alright. You are the only one standing between me and eternal bliss.” We ask that you hold the line. In the past further investigation has most often revealed that the other teachers did not know they had consented. Please let me know of any cases where students report that all the other teachers have consented.

I know this is a change from our prior approach. Over time the standard has become one of allowing change freely within the testing days, and even earlier, if a good reason were given and faculty were willing to “work things out.” For the new rule to work, we will all need to insist that students stay to finish their courses. We believe that exceptions will be scarce as hen’s teeth.

October 1, 2007

Phil Packer