Dear Ray,

At Bob Kuntz's suggestion, I would like to propose what I hope would be a small piece of business for the executive senate relating to the final date for withdrawing from a class.

As I understand it, students have until the 10th week of class to withdraw. That means that grade reports need to make it to students by the preceding week, meaning that faculty need to get them in early in the 9th week of the semester.

The difficult I have experienced with this is that it means these unsatisfactory grade reports are due right after midterms (week 8). This semester, they were due yesterday, six days after the official middle of the term, two working days after the end of midterm week. I give essay exams to my HIS10 class every midterm, which means either that I need to grade like a madman or that I need to submit my reports without including their midterm exam grade. This latter option is unappealing because their midterm grade is their most substantial one of the semester so far.

I could just give my midterm early, but I wonder whether this is a wider problem. My sense from students is that a lot of us do give midterms and a discussion with a senior colleague seemed to confirm this. My guess is that a lot of people might therefore appreciate a little more space to grade our exams or other midterm assignments before the reports are due.

Therefore, would it be possible for the executive senate to push the withdrawal date back a little? Could we have grade reports due on the Friday after the week in which midterm falls? Reports would be due at the end of week 9, with the following week for Michelle Hardley and advisors to speak with students. The withdrawal date would therefore need to be one week later, in week 11.

Thanks for your consideration of this request. I have copied my earlier correspondence with Michelle Hardley and Bob Kuntz below.

Warm regards,

Alister